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New York

President:	Mr. Araud	(France)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalic
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Nigeria	Mrs. Ogwu
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (S/2011/85)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.



The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

Identical letters dated 18 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council (S/2011/85)

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities; Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support; and Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, Permanent Representative of Rwanda, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now bring its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/85, which contains the text of a letter dated 18 February 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council transmitting the report of the independent review on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict.

I now give the floor to Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno.

Mr. Guéhenno (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I should like to thank you, Sir, for having invited me to this meeting to present to the Council the report of the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity (S/2011/85). I should also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Malcorra and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Gasana, for being here today.

The report before the Council is truly the product of a collaborative effort. I note the presence here today of Ambassador Mitra Vasish, a member of the Advisory Group. I believe without the diversity of points of view expressed in the Group, we would not be where we are today. This report is a result of a collective effort also in terms of the diversity and variety of the consultations we were able to hold in the preparatory phase. We met with Member States, regional organizations, civil society, individuals

affected by conflict and actors from conflict zones, and their points of view inform this report.

Let me first make a few remarks on the origins of this report. As Council members know, it arose from growing concerns among the international community, and the United Nations in particular, on how to provide, in a timely manner, people with the needed qualities in difficult situations, and how to deploy them rapidly in conflict-affected areas. This difficulty, which is common to all major multisectoral missions, affects the ability of United Nations missions — missions authorized by the Council — to fulfil their mandates and thus to build lasting peace. This is the overarching problem that our report aims to address.

Of course, it is not a new problem. Members will recall that during a debate in the General Assembly last June marking the tenth anniversary of the Brahimi report (S/2000/809), Lakhdar Brahimi noted that there is no substitute for getting the right people into the right jobs at the right time, and only for the time that is necessary. He went on to say that many peacekeeping veterans had told the panel he chaired in 2000 that the civilian personnel system was failing peacekeeping missions and that if there was only one problem to fix as a priority, it should be this. Ten years later, regrettably, he expressed his fear that many of the problems identified in 2000 had not yet been resolved.

In the past ten years, the operating environment of missions has become considerably more complicated, and the expectations of the international community have also significantly changed. The scope of the missions mandated by the Council has continued to expand, with missions playing ever more diverse and varied roles covering a very wide range of activities relating to the re-establishment of peace and security. This requires much greater agility at Headquarters and on the ground and a much broader range of skills and expertise, including specialized skills that are often hard to find.

(*spoke in English*)

As the Secretary-General said during the Council's debate on post-conflict peacebuilding and institution building in January (S/PV.6472), "More nimble and agile systems are also required, including stronger partnerships that can provide the most appropriate civilian capacity", particularly from the Global South and among women.

I would like to say a few words on the key features of the report. Council members are already familiar with its four main areas: national ownership, global partnership, expertise and nimbleness. I would like to explain why it was these four key issues that we chose to concentrate on.

First, national ownership. As the Peacebuilding Commission has emphasized, unless conflict-affected countries develop their own capacities to cope with crisis and change, international assistance will not succeed. Yet we heard repeatedly from conflict-affected countries that we do not sufficiently respect national ownership or develop national capacities. In Liberia, for example, where the last peace agreement was concluded in 2003, despite the international community's efforts since then, the lack of specialized capacity in many areas remains a major challenge. For the Liberian National Police alone, civilian expertise is needed in the areas of administration, communications, criminal investigation, institutional capacity-building and logistics. We need more than just the uniformed personnel, who of course play a critical role; there is a whole supporting civilian environment that needs to be developed in parallel.

Our report is therefore founded on the principle that international assistance has to identify, protect and nurture latent national capabilities — in short, that it must build on what is already there, not start from a blank slate. That means stronger support to core State capacities, such as aid coordination, policy and public financial management, maximizing the economic impact of our interventions through local procurement, and using local capacities as much as possible, including in professional positions in United Nations missions. This support has to start early. In Southern Sudan, for example, I hope that the United Nations will aim to build up the capacities of the Southern Sudanese to articulate their priorities so that it will be the Southern Sudanese themselves, who will truly shape the future of their country, with the United Nations planning process then aligning with those nationally defined priorities.

The second area of focus is partnerships. Conflict-affected countries have increasingly specialized needs in a variety of fields, from natural resource management, as we have seen in Liberia, to land management in Darfur, harbour management in Timor-Leste — the scope is unlimited. The United Nations obviously cannot hope to meet all of these

needs from its own ranks. Instead, it needs to establish and operate effective partnerships with outside providers, as many agencies, funds and programmes already do. We therefore recommend establishing a civilian partnership cell to link field needs to the capacities of Member State and non-governmental organization and to enable faster, more effective deployment of Member State capacities.

We emphasize, too, the need for greater South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation. The sort of expertise needed in conflict-affected countries can often be found in countries with a recent experience of transition or institutional transformation. South Africa, for example, has provided electoral and mediation expertise in Burundi. The capacity development needs of the Liberian National Police are being supported by neighbours in the subregion. Triangular cooperation is helping restore and strengthen core State functions in South Sudan, where 200 advisors from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and 150 United Nations Volunteers, supported by the United Nations Development Programme, will be outposted to work at the local level with Government counterparts and provided with technical and advisory support.

The next issue of focus is expertise. The Secretary-General's report on peacebuilding in 2009 (S/2009/304) stressed the need for predictable delivery of assistance in the core areas of peacebuilding. Yet efforts are still hampered by the lack of quickly deployable expert capacity, including in such mission-critical areas as the rule of law. Part of the problem is a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities, with gaps in some areas and overlap in others where multiple actors do the same tasks under competing mandates. This is why the report recommends establishing a clear model defining who does what, with clearly designated leads for all areas. The aims here are to strengthen responsibility and accountability, and to fill obvious capacity gaps.

The last is of focus is nimbleness. The Secretary-General's representatives in the field are entrusted by the Security Council with great political and diplomatic responsibility to carry out the Council's mandates. But when it comes to management, they actually often have very little flexibility and need the authority to adapt their implementation plans to react to the unforeseen and to seize opportunities. The implementation of their mandates could sometimes be well served by missions being enabled to undertake certain programmatic

activities, at least before United Nations agencies, funds and programmes have got their programmes under way. Examples such as the community violence reduction programme carried out by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, and a road-building scheme managed by the United Nations Mission in Liberia that employed 75,000 Liberians, a third of them ex-combatants, are illustrations of the enormous potential value of using mission funds for carefully targeted programmes within the mandate.

The report also makes one cross-cutting recommendation for more seamless arrangements within the United Nations to enable rapid response and interoperability across the system. This points, I must say, to a deeper problem — a single human resources system that tries to cater both to the recruitment of Headquarters staff and to the management of field missions. These are two vastly different tasks, perhaps impossible to do within one single set of rules without at least some adaptations.

In conclusion, let me stress that the international community has too often missed the window of opportunity that the immediate post-conflict period offers to provide basic security, deliver peace dividends, build confidence in political processes and strengthen core national capacities to lead peacebuilding efforts.

The stakes are very high. As the recently published *World Development Report* underlines,

“insecurity ... has become the primary development challenge of our time. One-and-a-half billion people live in areas affected by fragility, conflict, or large-scale, organized criminal violence, and no low-income fragile or conflict-affected country has yet to achieve a single United Nations Millennium Development Goal”.

To meet the needs of post-conflict countries, the United Nations currently tries to recruit a vast array of specialized personnel instead of building partnerships that will provide access to the necessary capacities as and when they are needed. Inevitably, then, its response to conflict is determined by the supply of its own human resources, and not by demand. Improving the way we deliver civilian capacity requires a shift from this supply-driven to a demand-driven approach that respects and understands the needs of conflict-affected countries and adapts itself to fill them, rather than simply providing the capacities it happens to have.

It requires going outside the boxes that we have built to describe our activities in post-conflict peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. These have sometimes proved to be an obstacle rather than a help because the reality is that the effort to rebuild a country that has suffered conflict is really a continuum. Too often, because of those boxes, our interventions are like a cliff, with at one stage a massive engagement and then suddenly very little. We do not know how to turn that cliff into a more gentle slope, which is really what is needed.

Our recommendations are intended to equip the international community to better respond to these demands. To that end, we envision a core of United Nations staff working in close partnership with host communities and civilians from Member States, regional organizations and other partners, accessing temporary capacities in response to need.

A meeting organized by the United Nations and the African Union in Addis Ababa in December 2010 was quite clear on this point. The concluding statement of that meeting said, in part:

“The spirit of partnership must drive the next generation of engagement with conflict-affected States. The United Nations must be open and respectful. It must engage host communities, Member States which have appropriate capacities, regional and subregional organizations, civil society and the private sector, with a willingness to learn from them and adapt.”

This message goes to the very heart of the report.

Our ideas and proposals are now for Member States and the Secretary-General to weigh and consider. I hope that some of them will prove of some value. I thank the members of the Council for their interest, and look forward to hearing their views on our report and its relevance to their work.

The President (spoke in French): I thank Mr. Guéhenno for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ms. Malcorra.

Ms. Malcorra: I thank you, Sir, for inviting me to this meeting and giving me the opportunity to hear members' views and discuss the follow-up of the report of the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity (see S/2001/85). I am happy to see Jean-Marie Guéhenno

and Ambassador Gasana, representing the Peacebuilding Commission today.

Civilian capacity is a vital component of almost all the missions that the Council authorizes. From large, multidimensional peacekeeping operations to smaller, more specialized political missions, all need extensive civilian expertise to fulfil their mandates. When the Secretary-General produced his first report on peacebuilding (S/2009/304) in the immediate aftermath of conflict in 2009, the Council stressed the importance of rapidly deployable civilian expertise to help develop national capacities as early as possible. It was in that regard that the Council welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a review to analyse how to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian experts — a review that has now produced the report we have before us today.

The Secretary-General has welcomed the direction articulated by the report. The recommendations are congruent with his broader efforts to create a more open and responsive United Nations working in close partnership with Member States. The Secretary-General has stressed that the report's emphasis on the need to do more within existing resources and to make better use of the systems already in place is also in line with his continuing drive to build a more accountable, efficient and effective United Nations. I see a great deal of congruence between the report's recommendations and the priorities the Council has long identified for improving our collective performance in supporting conflict-affected countries.

First, with respect to national ownership, the entire report is based on the premise that unless national Governments, peoples and institutions truly own their peacebuilding processes, peace will not last. Identifying and developing latent national capacity is always difficult, but it has to be built into our objectives and our work plans from the very start.

The Council has emphasized the need for early and predictable support in priority areas of peacebuilding, including security sector reform and the rule of law, respect for human rights and refugee return, core Government functions and economic revitalization. The report recognizes those that currently lack the capacity to respond to demand. But there is also the question of the national capacity to manage and direct such assistance. The Council has

rightly stressed the vital role of the United Nations in supporting national authorities to develop an early strategy to address their peacebuilding priorities. The report, too, says that we must do better at supporting Governments in building the core structures needed for policy management and prioritization, aid coordination and public financial management. This is congruent with key findings and messages in the newly released *World Development Report*.

With regard to partnerships, delivering more effective civilian capacity needs to be a collective effort. It is neither practicable nor wise for the United Nations to try to recruit as staff members individuals with all the myriad skills and experience that are necessary to meet post-conflict needs, either now or in an unknown future. What the report recommends, instead, is for the United Nations to supplement its core staff by investing in long-term partnerships with external providers who can furnish the necessary niche capacity on a more flexible, on-demand basis. Building such partnerships will be of mutual benefit. Not only will the United Nations gain access to new sources of capacity that are currently underused, but Member States and other partners will have increased opportunities for deploying their civilian capacities in partnership with the United Nations. This is the point of the report's recommendations for greater South-South cooperation and triangular partnerships, and for associated modalities like experts on mission or civilian support packages, to enable them to work smoothly.

Lastly, with regard to the importance of translating proposed changes into improved effectiveness of operations on the ground, many of the recommendations in the report concern United Nations rules or management practices at Headquarters. But there is little point in changes at Headquarters if they do not ultimately improve our performance in the field, that is, the value of our assistance to conflict-affected countries. As we move ahead and consider which of the report's ideas we can usefully apply, and how, I am determined that we should maintain a clear focus on the field and on how our work is going to make an impact there. I therefore intend to involve representatives from the field in meetings of our Steering Committee whenever possible.

Next, let me turn to the way ahead. As Chair of the Steering Committee appointed by the Secretary-General to take the report forward, we are working on

the basis of certain key principles. First, we shall be open and consultative. The entire United Nations system, Member States and other external partners all need to be involved if we are to crystallize a set of actionable recommendations from the report. Consultations will also help us understand what capacities are available beyond the United Nations but not being fully used. The debate that took place in the General Assembly yesterday has already given us indications that will inform the process moving forward.

We have to align our work with other initiatives and reforms across the United Nations system that fit with what we are trying to do. Some of the report's human resources recommendations, for example, may be more productively pursued within other work streams. By putting these things under a civilian capacity chapeau, we may be able to lend them a sharper focus, sense of urgency and added value.

We are adopting a holistic, system-wide approach. The Steering Committee established by the Secretary-General includes our development and humanitarian colleagues. The World Bank has shown interest in joining, and we are working on a way to make that happen. Our meetings so far have shown that there is much constructive interest across the system in how the report can be acted upon, even though there may be differences of opinion about exactly how to do it. There is, moreover, broad agreement on the key goals, namely, to better enable national capacity development, to develop mechanisms for effective partnerships with external capacities and to design more seamless arrangements within the United Nations to enable a rapid response to crises. That is an encouraging basis on which to move ahead.

Lastly, we need to be selective. The report contains more than 70 recommendations. Some changes that appear simple may in practice be difficult. Others, though, can be done within the Secretary-General's or his executive heads' own purview. We need to identify those that offer the greatest return on investment and prioritize them. We also need to test some of these ideas, especially in the field. South Sudan, for example, should the Security Council authorize a United Nations mission there, may present opportunities. But we must also be realistic. Some recommendations need systemic change, and they will take some time.

Where do we go from here? I look forward to hearing Council members' views on the report and what they consider to be opportunities for early action. The Secretary-General will wish to reflect on these as he considers how to take the report forward. He will then indicate which recommendations he intends to implement, and how — probably in the form of a report to the membership after the summer. This will be a long journey, and we are just beginning here.

The President (spoke in French): I thank Ms. Malcorra for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana.

Mr. Gasana (Rwanda) (spoke in French): I should like to thank the Security Council for its ever-growing interest in the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) by inviting us from time to time to contribute to the Council's lofty undertaking, as enormous and invaluable as it is for human kind as a whole. Allow me also to formally reiterate my congratulations, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month.

(spoke in English)

The Peacebuilding Commission has prioritized national ownership as a central principle in ensuring sustainable peace and preventing a relapse into conflict. To that end, beyond rhetoric and slogans, the Commission believes that ownership is best understood and meaningful in the context of three primary areas, namely, first, a national vision for, and leadership of, the political and peacebuilding processes; secondly, adequate human and institutional capacities in critical areas of security, governance and economic generation; and, thirdly, the inclusiveness of all segments of the society.

The Commission considers the review of civilian capacity as a window of opportunity for the international community to address the second area, namely, the adequate development of human and institutional capacities, and to recognize the urgency with which we need to improve our collective response to that challenging task. In the context of taking forward the relevant recommendations from the 2010 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, the Commission has prioritized national capacity development for the countries on its agenda as a key area requiring immediate attention this year.

In that connection, the Commission was periodically engaged throughout the consultative process which produced the ambitious report (S/2011/85) that is before us today. The members of the Commission have also been closely involved through the informal consultative group chaired by Canada, a member of the Commission and the Chair of its Sierra Leone configuration. Recently, following the release of the report, the Commission had informal interactions with our outstanding and efficient Under-Secretary-General, Susana Malcorra, Chair of the Steering Group, who shared with us her thinking on the next steps to be taken.

There is a need to operationalize actions across the four areas covered by the report: ownership, partnership, expertise and nimbleness. We appreciate the fact that in order to operationalize the outcome of the review, we must prioritize those actions that could deliver the most immediate and tangible improvements in the field. However, we recognize also that high expectations have already been generated by the process. We hope that we can, to the extent possible, match practicality with expectations, and realism with the urgency of introducing changes. I am not suggesting that this will be a simple task for the Secretary-General, as it will necessarily feed into the broader efforts of United Nations reform.

On substance, I would like to touch on the following elements, which the Commission deems of particular significance in going forward.

First, capacity needs in the countries concerned must be viewed within the framework of the most pressing peacebuilding needs and priorities, which are country-specific and time-bound. Therefore, the priority-setting exercise must be owned nationally, and our response must be demand-driven.

Secondly, we need to improve the way in which we identify and classify existing national and local capacities. Practical mechanisms that could enable, train and deploy such capacities, including among the diaspora, must be put in place. Our focus must be on enabling, not substituting for, local capacities.

Thirdly, leveraging capacities and expertise in the neighbouring regions, the global South and among women and civil society actors is a key feature of the review. We recognize, however, that translating that objective into practical reality will be particularly challenging, not least on the funding front. Enabling a

more peacebuilding-oriented focus and the interoperability of existing South-South cooperation and capacity-building mechanisms with United Nations system-wide mechanisms deserves our immediate attention.

Fourthly, women's empowerment must remain a high-priority area in the context of this exercise. We need to approach this area in conjunction with ongoing efforts to strengthen women's participation in peacebuilding processes, as indicated in the recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/466) and his seven-point action plan.

Member States have expressed their wish to remain closely engaged in and consulted throughout the process leading to the Secretary-General's submission of his report on operationalizing the review. As a forum that works across organizational boundaries and addresses the entire continuum of peacebuilding activities, the Peacebuilding Commission stands ready to offer a space for such consultations, bringing together a broad range of stakeholders. That might help to facilitate coherence and complementarity with ongoing efforts and initiatives, such as the operationalizing of the *World Development Report 2011*. In that connection, we also look forward to performing our function as an advisory body to the Security Council and the General Assembly as the two organs take forward their respective legislative mandates.

The President (spoke in French): I thank Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana for his statement. The Council believes that the work being carried out by the Peacebuilding Commission is of the greatest importance, and I wish to thank all three speakers for the contributions they made.

I now give the floor to members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I, too, wish to thank former Under-Secretary-General Guéhenno and Under-Secretary-General Malcorra for their statements and the Senior Advisory Group that Mr. Guéhenno chaired for their excellent efforts. I am grateful also to Ambassador Gasana for his statement and for his very able leadership of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The United States welcomes this important and timely report (S/2011/85) on civilian capacity in the

aftermath of conflict. We appreciate its level of ambition, and we look forward to studying its recommendations and working with colleagues on ways to take the agenda forward together.

When new Governments emerge from the ashes of devastating conflict, they face countless challenges. These range from establishing critical State functions and services to shepherding political transition and building confidence among former adversaries to laying the groundwork for economic recovery and longer-term development.

Peace is always too long in coming after bloody conflict, but even when we see it coming, we are often not well prepared to offer the most timely and relevant support. Countries seeking to rebuild cannot afford the average six months or more it can take to identify and deploy the expertise they need. When there is a requirement for specialized capabilities, whether judges or police trainers, legal and constitutional experts, public administrators or economic advisers, our instruments are often not well tailored to deliver.

As much as post-conflict countries may need support from external partners, we are also very much mindful of the reviews urging us not to overlook capacity that may already be in place, even in the most damaged areas. We need to ensure that international efforts enhance capacities that already exist rather than displace or replace them.

We appreciate the main themes of the review: the call for much greater seriousness about national ownership, the openness to wider and more diverse partnerships, the importance of expertise relevant to specific contexts and the need for management practices that are responsive to fluid post-conflict environments. We welcome the practical, concrete recommendations. We see this exercise as an important opportunity to draw together and to enhance some of our existing efforts to strengthen peacekeeping, peacebuilding and internal support to peace processes. We fully support the review's emphasis on gender and its ideas for recruiting and retaining more women across the United Nations and the wider international system.

At this stage we would welcome further consideration of several issues.

First, as has been mentioned, we will soon be formulating a mandate for a new mission in South

Sudan, and we see this as an opportunity, as has been suggested, to advance some of the review's important ideas in this context. We would welcome an opportunity — as a Council and interactively with our colleagues from the Secretariat — to explore how best to do this.

Secondly, we need to ask ourselves what the Secretariat can already do, now, to improve its ability to identify and deploy relevant civilian expertise, and how Member States can best support these efforts.

Thirdly, the review underscores the need for closer cooperation between international financial institutions and the political and security presences, as we have just discussed — a point that was also underscored by the *2011 World Development Report* on conflict-affected and fragile States. What can we do now to forge more productive partnerships with the international financial institutions and donor entities?

In this Chamber we know all too well that it is not enough for soldiers to keep the peace unless parallel efforts are made to address the underlying drivers of conflict and to build the foundation for a lasting peace that will enable troops to return home. This civilian capacity review report makes an important contribution to helping us get this right. There is much here to digest, assess and debate.

We appreciate Under-Secretary-General Malcorra's appeal to prioritize, and we welcome her leadership. We also thank the Secretary-General for his ongoing commitment to this issue, and now our work — that of the membership — begins. We have an important new opportunity to make progress in our collective efforts to support countries recovering from war. Let us work together to seize it.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): I have listened with much interest to what the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission has had to say, as well as to the briefings by the Chair of the Senior Advisory Group and by Under-Secretary-General Malcorra.

Peacekeeping operations mandated by this Council have been the main instrument for United Nations action on the ground for conflict resolution. They have stood the test of time and will remain the critical pillar of United Nations activities for years to come. They have also provided the umbrella for peacebuilding activities. However, over the years, we in this Council have invariably added to the mandates

of peacekeeping missions. The critical imperative is therefore for placing adequate resources at their disposal.

As many of the situations where United Nations peacekeeping missions are operating are those of prolonged conflict or are post conflict, it is essential that the United Nations missions involve themselves in building local capacities for the provision of basic administration and essential services. Civilian capacities are critical in this endeavour, and their presence in a significantly enhanced manner in United Nations peacekeeping missions has to engage us here in the United Nations as Member States.

We are very appreciative of the work done by Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno and the Senior Advisory Group in examining the issue in detail and making recommendations on how enhanced civilian capacity could be incorporated in the work of the United Nations in post-conflict situations. We have also noted that the Secretary-General has set up a steering group to facilitate follow-up of the report of the independent review on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (see S/2011/85) and that Under-Secretary-General Malcorra will be leading that effort.

This is a detailed report, and the issues of enhanced civilian capacities require that we engage ourselves as Member States. At the United Nations we have a number of institutions in which we will have to do this, including the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Fifth Committee. Significantly enhancing civilian capacities will have a major impact on the staffing, resourcing and impact of peacekeeping missions, but these must neither dilute nor detract from the requirements of peacekeeping.

The open framework and the cluster approach to identifying tasks and responsibilities in the aftermath of conflict could help in better defining peacebuilding priorities and tasks. The concept of a lead agency has to be reconciled with the requirement of unity of command, so essential in peacekeeping, and to ensure that peacebuilding does not fall victim to turf battles. There will also be demands for creating entities in New York to administer these advanced civilian capacities. We need to avoid setting up large and top-heavy bureaucratic structures. Our focus must remain on the field and delivery there.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has been acting on the provision of police

capacities for many years, and I am happy that India has been able to contribute both formed police units — including the first female formed police unit — and senior police personnel to serve in management and command positions.

The report has identified several critical areas for providing core government functions where civilian capacities are best suited. India has been included as one of the countries whose capacity in several of these areas has been noticed for possible tapping by the United Nations. In the past, when called upon to provide civilian capacities for United Nations missions, India has responded promptly. I recall the secondment of several of our civilian officials to United Nations missions in the former Yugoslavia and even right now in Afghanistan.

The report has underscored recognition of national ownership and the importance of support to core government functions to ensure success in preventing relapse into conflict. It is critical that national ownership is accepted in its real sense, and not only by way of lip service while actually pushing for the solutions favoured by the donors. It is also critical that civilian capacity deployments are demand-driven.

My delegation believes that the recruitment model should give primacy to a partnership with Governments of Member States and involve the secondment of Government officials. It is also important to ensure gender balance. This has a number of advantages. It gives the United Nations rapid access to the required capacities, allowing rapid scaling up and scaling down of capacities. Above all it provides capacities that are trained to work in and establish government structures, and it would mesh well with the peacekeeping personnel on the ground. The DPKO has a fourth-generation model. Perhaps that too could be used to generate civilian capacities from Governments of Member States.

My delegation also believes that the capacities that are being sourced must be relevant to the conditions in post-conflict situations. The expertise that is most relevant and actually tried on the ground is in developing countries that have undertaken successful efforts in recent times in building government structures and arranging for better delivery of basic services. There is an international shift in many fields towards sourcing capabilities from the global South, driven by sound economic and functional

considerations. United Nations efforts to source civilian capacities from developing nations would be in consonance with these broad prints.

The United Nations remains, in the eyes of the affected, the most credible and legitimate representative of the international community. Its peacekeeping activities have provided the bedrock of this trust. It is imperative that civilian capacities add to this credibility.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I thank Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra for their comprehensive briefings. I would like to commend Mr. Guéhenno and the Senior Advisor Group for their excellent review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (see S/2011/85). I am also happy to see Ambassador Gasana, the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, here among us, and I thank him for his contribution.

This is a welcome opportunity to start a collective effort. The key challenge, particularly in the period immediately following a ceasefire or a peace agreement, is this: how to secure the best civilian capacities needed to build sustainable peace. This includes the re-establishment of institutions of government, rule of law, respect for human rights and economic revitalization.

The response of the international community and the United Nations in this field is still too fragmented and often too late. We need to do better to enable national ownership, to work in partnership and to improve the effectiveness, appropriateness and timeliness of United Nations support to conflict-affected countries.

We therefore welcome the findings of the independent report, including the recognition of the critical role of women in peacebuilding. We also welcome and support the leadership of Under-Secretary-General Malcorra to take forward the implementation process with the Steering Group.

When considering the next steps in the follow-up to the report, I would like to highlight three priorities.

First, all efforts should aim at the leanest system that works and is needs-based, flexible and results-oriented. This also includes working towards leaner and more flexible missions in terms of civilian staff wherever possible. Duplication within the United Nations system and gaps need to be identified and

addressed. Recruitment procedures for civilian experts need to be streamlined and simplified. As the report points out, the United Nations can implement many of the recommendations without legislative changes. I would like to encourage the Secretary-General to take all the necessary steps to that end, and to welcome the intention to develop a prioritized road map on the way ahead, which should also indicate where action by Member States is required.

Secondly, instead of setting up new and costly structures, focus needs to be on making better use of existing resources and systems already in place. Partnerships are an essential element in this context, including South-South cooperation. The European Union has a broad set of instruments and expertise through its Common Security and Defence Policy and its civilian crisis management missions. We encourage the Secretariat to pool the efforts to deliver and train resources, as proposed by the European Union in yesterday's debate in the General Assembly.

Building on partnerships between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations will also be vital, as is making use of the tools and instruments provided by the international financial institutions, notably the World Bank, and engaging the private sector.

Germany stands ready to provide expertise through our Center for International Peace Operations, to assist the compact support team to be established by Under-Secretary-General Malcorra. The Center maintains a national stand-by roster of trained experts who are ready to be deployed in peace operations of the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Center also offers to provide in-mission training, and we look forward to discussing this in detail with the compact support team.

Thirdly, it is important to draw on lessons learned, best practices and evaluation results. The cluster approach of the humanitarian system was recently evaluated in 2010, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee is currently working on implementing the recommendations. Existing reform processes, such as the implementation of the global field support strategy, need to be taken into account.

We should start to take concrete steps without delay. South Sudan could be, as was pointed out, the first test case and starting point. Critical needs, notably

the establishment of Government institutions and justice, will have to be addressed swiftly. Attention should therefore be paid to identifying and supporting effectively national capacities, including the capacities of the diasporas. Furthermore, the Security Council will have to consider the initiation of peacebuilding in mandates and, from the outset of a mandate, how best to integrate the building of partnerships.

It is not for the Security Council alone to follow up on the process. Joint action is required by the Secretary-General, the Secretariat and United Nations bodies, including the Peacebuilding Commission and the General Assembly. Creating effective ways to make civilian capacity available to support peacebuilding in conflict-affected countries is the best way to secure national ownership and make peace and reconstruction sustainable. My country is willing to work with the United Nations and all partners to that end.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): South Africa welcomes the report by the Senior Advisory Group (see S/2011/85) on the review of international civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict. We welcome the briefings by Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Senior Advisory Group for the review of international civilian capacity, and by Under-Secretary-General for Field Support Susana Malcorra. I also thank Ambassador Gasana, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his statement.

As communities emerge from conflict, they often face a critical shortage of capacities needed to secure sustainable socio-economic development, lasting peace and security and much-needed stability. More often than not, we have seen that countries emerging from conflict lack the very basic capacities to run a Government. They experience setbacks in their disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes and are confronted with distressed economies. This state of affairs increases the likelihood of relapse into conflict.

International civilian capacities will require strengthening in providing support in the following areas: political processes; the re-establishment of national institutions; the reform of judicial systems; the promotion of respect for human rights; transitional justice mechanisms, including truth and reconciliation and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; the integration of armed forces; and, more important, economic recovery.

Today's debate gives us an opportunity to explore how the United Nations and international players, including the donor community, could better utilize existing international civilian capacities and resources to complement existing local and national capacities in countries emerging from conflict.

In the light of this, my delegation welcomes the recommendations made in the report of the Senior Advisory Group. These recommendations are important, as they are aimed at strengthening national ownership, broadening and deepening the pool of international civilian capacities and improving the appropriateness, timeliness and effectiveness of United Nations support.

The United Nations has traditionally focused on humanitarian and peacekeeping operations, and there has been little success in supporting and enabling the national capacities that are essential for enduring peace.

My delegation would like to focus on only two of the main recommendations in the report, namely, national ownership and building partnerships.

Given the effects of conflict, local capacities may be weakened, thus making them unavailable or scarce. In other situations, although ravaged by conflict, there will still be more national capacity than is at first apparent. Such latent capacities must be protected and nurtured. My delegation would like to emphasize the salience of ensuring that national capacities are central, and not just an appendage in post-conflict reconstruction. The failure to tap into capacities that are already in place, or to nurture and strengthen such capacities where they are lacking, will create a dangerous dependency syndrome, which will continue to stretch the meagre resources of the international community.

By developing international civilian capacities, we will be encouraging sustainable development as the key to ensuring that countries do not relapse into conflict. We need to acknowledge that we have not sufficiently tapped into existing international capacities, in particular from the global South and the North. As we seek to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian capacities and experts, we also need to utilize the comparative advantage of regional and subregional organizations and leverage the crucial but often neglected capacity of women.

South Africa recognizes the importance of both national ownership and building partnerships. In order to develop local capacities, my Government has begun capacity-building programmes for countries emerging from conflict. For example, in addition to our recent humble contribution in Burundi in the area of election management, as recognized by Mr. Guéhenno today, we have, over the years, contributed to the training of over 1,500 officials of the Government of South Sudan in cross-cutting fields including diplomacy, public service and public finance and management. We have also entered into a triangular partnership with Germany, to provide training in South Sudan on correctional, judicial and legal services.

As is always the case, the development of national and international civilian capacities in the aftermath of conflict will not succeed without the provision of predictable, flexible and sustainable sources of funding. My delegation looks forward to further interactions on the report on civilian capacities as Under-Secretary-General Malcorra takes forward the report's recommendations.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Many thanks to you, Mr. President, for convening this debate. I also express my thanks for the briefings that we have heard. Given the mounting demands on the United Nations to support countries emerging from conflict, such as the Sudan and Côte d'Ivoire, this debate provides a timely opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to improve the effectiveness of the United Nations in peacebuilding.

I would like to thank Mr. Guéhenno, the Senior Advisory Group and the team based in the Peacebuilding Support Office for their efforts in generating the report before us (see S/2011/85). I am also delighted that Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra has been appointed to lead its implementation. We fully support the overarching approach of the report.

The international community, including the United Nations, needs to be much more effective in helping build national capacities in post-conflict countries. The focus needs initially to be on building institutions that can generate the critical survival functions of the State: security, the rule of law and the economy. Without progress on security, justice and jobs, people will have little confidence in a nascent peace process or the State authorities. However, that will need to expand rapidly into other expected State

functions, such as basic services, infrastructure and economic management.

Getting the right civilian expertise deployed promptly to help a country deliver those core functions is therefore critical, but, as the report emphasizes, local capacity should have primacy. International capacity should only be used as a last resort. It is therefore important that international support be based on a thorough assessment of existing local capacity.

To help where international deployments are needed, we support the proposal of establishing a civilian partnerships cell so that the United Nations can better tap into the expertise of Member States, regional organizations and other partners. Such a cell will help to widen the network of expertise and thus improve the ability to select people with intimate knowledge of a region or post-conflict needs. A network of centres of excellence will help to improve the quality and availability of experts and the supply to the United Nations and others. We need to see the benefits of such recommendations working quickly on the ground.

The report also rightly highlights the need for effective leadership. Successful United Nations missions depend on strong leadership. We must select the best candidates based on competence alone. We support the need for better training of leaders so that they can manage the post-conflict response more effectively.

We also agree with the need for greater unity of effort so that we have a clear sense within the United Nations of who is doing what. That will be supported by having a clearer delineation of roles and responsibilities for the core peacebuilding sectors. Without that, we will not get the right investment to ensure a predictable and professional response. That is ever more important in an environment where resources are constrained.

However, we feel that some of the report's recommendations need further clarity and consultation, particularly those concerning the flexibility of mission resources. We welcome Under-Secretary-General Malcorra's plans to consult closely with Member States as that and other recommendations are taken up. Where recommendations are taken forward, that must happen within existing resource allocations.

Finally, we welcome the plan for the Secretary-General to prepare a response to this initial report in the autumn.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (spoke in French): The mobilization and the deployment of civilian expertise in post-conflict situations is one of the priorities of United Nations peacebuilding activity. In May 2008, under the United Kingdom presidency, the Council addressed this issue for the first time (see S/PV.5895). The Council emphasized the need to swiftly deploy civilian expertise in the two years following the end of a conflict.

Allow me, too, to thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Under-Secretary-General Ms. Susana Malcorra for their presentation of the report of the Senior Advisory Group tasked with considering this issue (see S/2011/85). I would also like to thank Ambassador Gasana for his intervention, providing the point of view of the Peacebuilding Commission, to which we give our full support.

On the one hand, the report enables us to highlight the shortfalls in the transition between peacekeeping activities and the restoration of peace. It also enables us to assess peacebuilding experiences in recent years in Afghanistan, Somalia, Burundi, Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic in order to draw relevant lessons. Countries emerging from conflict often lack the means needed to establish lasting peace, in particular in areas such as the restoration of a judicial system and administration, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and the re-establishment of economic activity and social services, such as education, health care and so on.

My delegation supports the recommendations of the Secretary-General seeking to establish a reliable and credible partnership between countries in crisis and the international community that takes account of the country's potential, the aspirations and real needs of its people and the leadership of local authorities in order to better direct the aid and the many kinds of support of the international community.

It is vital that such a partnership is ultimately based on strong national ownership, in particular in the areas of justice, basic services and the critical functions of the Administration. By receiving international assistance, the State emerging from conflict must regain the exercise of its sovereign prerogatives in

those areas. The partnership between the State receiving assistance and the international community should be carried out under the leadership and governance of the relevant State, even in the absence of national human resources.

We welcome what the United Nations has already undertaken in recent years with training programmes for the civilian and military personnel of States in transition, or already in a post-conflict situation, so that such personnel can take on the tasks transferred to them and replace the external staff deployed in the context of such missions. The situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Timor-Leste and Afghanistan are instructive in that regard. Such capacity-building is crucial to better consolidate the gains of peace and post-conflict stabilization.

For its part, the Council has a central role to play given that the mandates of peacekeeping operations increasingly entail consolidation and reconstruction tasks. It is therefore our duty to focus on the structure and new mandates of operations, to ensure that the resources allocated are sufficient for the assigned tasks and to have a bearing on effective implementation in order to fully realize the potential for consolidation and reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict.

My delegation would like to underscore the view of the Advisory Group that assistance to a country in the post-conflict period must respect the country's priorities and real needs. That is the basis of ownership and the guarantee of better results on the ground.

In conclusion, we welcome the establishment of the team that Ms. Malcorra will lead to examine the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Group. We are convinced that their conclusions will make it possible to increase the effectiveness of missions on the ground and the possibilities for lasting stability of countries emerging from conflict.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): We are grateful to Mr. Guéhenno and Ms. Malcorra for their briefings on the report of the Senior Advisory Group (see S/2011/85) and to Mr. Gasana, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, for his comments.

We believe that the report reflects the main problems in peacebuilding. Indeed, it provides excellent food for thought and could serve as a

platform for cooperation among Member States in determining the optimal means of assisting countries overcoming the consequences of conflict. We will carefully study the report, and we are ready for an exchange of views with the various partners.

We support the two main thrusts of the report. The first is that civilian specialists must be deployed rapidly, and second is that deployment must be focused on maximizing the use of and strengthening national institutions and national capacities. Like our colleagues, we are ready to discuss the Secretary-General's recommendations on the subject.

In general and in principle, we would like to note that any form of assistance from the international community must be provided with the consent of national Governments, while respecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Assistance should be tailored to each country. It is important to understand that one of the main elements of post-conflict peacebuilding is the strengthening of national institutional capacity. We are pleased that this principle is reflected very clearly in the report.

This universal organization, the United Nations, should play the coordinating role in international peacebuilding efforts, owing to its unique experience and legitimacy. The United Nations should coordinate all efforts by countries to implement the decisions taken. In practical terms, with respect to the concrete proposals in the report, we would like to make several comments.

First, we have questions about the use of reserves in the area of civilian components in United Nations field missions deployed under Security Council mandates. How balanced would that be in terms of geographical representation? How much would it reflect the actual capacity of Member States?

Secondly, in our view, it is important to avoid contradictions between efforts to build capacity in the post-conflict period and the deployment of specialists from international structures outside the United Nations for post-conflict development.

Thirdly, in terms of resources, the report requires further details, given that some of the recommendations will, in our opinion, have serious implications, not only for the current rules, but also for the core principles governing the financing of United Nations field operations. Here I refer in particular to

the degree of control by Member States over the implementation of their decisions and to the use of the Organization's resources that are made available under mandates.

With respect to the recommendations on staff policies, we also believe that there is a need to more closely analyse the reforms recently completed in those areas.

Financing and logistics policies need to be more flexible in terms of how resources are allocated for field mission budgets. Interaction among the various agencies of the United Nations should be enhanced. Also worth mentioning are the components for deploying the global field support strategy, which is being discussed in the General Assembly. We think those ideas should be discussed in detail in the Assembly's Fifth Committee before pursuing their implementation.

We have noted that the report contains several recommendations for creating specialized structures in the Secretariat, such as a Civilian Partnerships Cell, and for studying such partnerships and their creation on the ground. That idea should be studied in advance and its potential functions described in greater detail. On the whole, however, we would prefer to retain the mechanisms already in place.

Reserves could require considerable expense, and there might not be enough specialists. We are ready to continue working with the representatives of the Secretariat in studying the details of the specialist rosters and other mechanisms described in the report.

The review of the recommendations in the report and of the Secretary-General could indeed help the various organs form more effective operational and economical approaches for the deployment of civilian personnel in post-conflict situations.

Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would first like to thank the Secretary-General and the Senior Advisory Group for their efforts in preparing the report before the Council today (see S/2011/85). It contains many important ideas. We would also like to thank Mr. Guéhenno, Ms. Malcorra and Ambassador Gasana for their detailed briefings.

If strengthening civilian capacity does not lead to the establishment of peace, then civilian capacity will not have a direct impact on many vital sectors in terms of peacebuilding, for instance in stabilizing the

security situation, strengthening State institutions and ensuring development. The Security Council has noted the close correlation between strengthening State institutions and social development, on the one hand, and achieving lasting peace, on the other. It did so during the two debates organized this year under the presidencies of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Brazil, respectively (6472nd and 6479th meetings).

In terms of future actions, we welcome the formation of a steering group, to be led by Under-Secretary-General Malcorra, to ensure follow-up of the implementation of the report and its recommendations. We encourage her to ensure that the follow-up process is based on close consultations with Member States and the parties concerned, and that it leads to concrete recommendations on the best way of translating the initiatives described in the report into reality.

In that regard, we would like to highlight three aspects of the report, which in our view should be given close attention as part of efforts to create a road map for the implementation of the report's recommendations.

First is national ownership. Like other speakers, we wish to emphasize the importance of guaranteeing national ownership in societies emerging from conflict. National actors are indeed the primary stakeholders in peacebuilding efforts. They are in the best position to understand the needs of their society and to optimally respond to them.

While the report has devoted considerable attention to the best way of guaranteeing national ownership, it is still true that experience has shown that implementing such initiatives is an extremely complex undertaking. In the future, we hope to see practical proposals for the best way in which to guarantee national ownership, which could be achieved through the activities of civilian experts on the ground, and on how those experts can help to enhance national capacities.

Second is the issue of women's empowerment. Women are essential partners in peacebuilding. We note, however, that this important category is often excluded, in spite of the fact that women account for half of the population of societies emerging from conflict. In this respect, we hope that concrete proposals will be made concerning women's empowerment and involvement that guarantee their economic autonomy and access to basic services, such

as health services and education, in societies emerging from conflict.

Third is the issue of partnerships. Partnerships are a fundamental pillar of the United Nations ability to deploy civilian capacity in a flexible, effective and timely manner. In this respect, we believe that we should first consider the expertise available in the country concerned, and then in the region, and then among countries of the South, and then at the international level. We should clarify the best way for the activities of a civilian partnership cell to contribute to mobilizing the expertise of countries of the South.

Finally, we hope that the United Nations will streamline its consideration of civilian capacity and the challenges ahead, particularly since such consideration is taking place in the broader framework of the efforts of the Secretary-General and Member States to ensure that our Organization can best respond to the needs of societies for peace and development.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): Let me join previous speakers in thanking Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno and Ambassador Eugène-Richard Gasana for their valuable presentations. We appreciate the comprehensive review undertaken by the Senior Advisory Group on post-conflict civilian capacities, and we wish Ms. Malcorra success in her endeavours as the leader of the Steering Group established by the Secretary-General.

Brazil welcomes this exchange of views on the recommendations presented by the Senior Advisory Group. Given the importance of this issue and its system-wide reach, we would encourage further consultations in a broader setting that can incorporate the views and inputs of the wider membership.

The review is an opportunity to translate into practice the idea that peacekeeping and peacebuilding are parts of an integrated and non-sequential process. Those dimensions are complementary and mutually reinforcing. We cannot lose sight of the main objective of the review, which is to better address the needs of countries emerging from conflicts. In this regard, we appreciate the priority given by the report (see S/2011/85) to the use of national capacities and their development. When international experts are deployed, they must be able to train local personnel and foment their use by the local Government. Just as important, those sent to the field are expected to deal with and

understand the local reality with due regard for the priorities established by national stakeholders.

The sustainability of the gains in security and stability achieved with the help of peacekeeping missions greatly depends upon the capacity of the local Government to resume its core functions. Any successful exit strategy must therefore be accompanied by the development of national capacities and the strengthening of local institutions and political processes. It is thus very important that peacekeeping mandates be supplemented as soon as possible by peacebuilding activities that can help to strengthen national institutions and to develop local expertise. An effective deployment of civilian capacities can give United Nations peacekeeping missions a lighter footprint, as envisioned in the Brahimi report (S/2000/809).

The deployment of military and police forces is one of the distinctive characteristics of peacekeeping. However, the role of the civilian component should not be underestimated. We strongly believe that the deployment of civilian experts to support economic and social policies in the early stages of recovery can create the conditions for a long-lasting peace. We agree that partnerships are an important tool for expanding capacities in post-conflict countries. Cooperation among countries facing similar difficulties is of particular relevance, which makes it preferable to seek international capacities in the same region or to stimulate South-South cooperation, as already underscored by previous speakers.

The use of experts within the modality of experts on mission and the establishment of civilian support packages in close coordination with Member States are interesting options that could enable developing countries to offer more civilian expertise, including in aforementioned areas such as finance management, public administration, health and education. In the context of United Nations peacekeeping, these proposals could contribute to more effective mandate implementation.

Brazil stands ready to contribute to the implementation of the recommendations presented by the Senior Advisory Group with a view to enhancing our collective capacity to help post-conflict countries reach sustainable peace.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I would like to start by thanking Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra

and the Chair of the Senior Advisory Group, Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, for their briefings on the findings in the report of the independent review on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (S/2011/85) and for their views on the way ahead for the implementation of the suggested recommendations. I also thank Ambassador Gasana for his useful contribution to this debate.

Portugal is very supportive of the approach and of the major findings of the report of the Senior Advisory Group. The report should, in our view, become a reference document for the planning and management of peacebuilding activities, not just by the United Nations, but also by other multilateral and bilateral actors. Allow me to underline some elements related not only to the report but also to the wider topic of civilian capabilities that, in our view, deserve particular attention.

First, I would like to underline the importance of fostering national ownership in initiatives aimed at State-building backed by the international community. There is certainly a long way to go to increase levels of ownership, but the report is very clear in identifying, as the first priority of post-conflict assistance, the strengthening of national capacities for fulfilling core functions of the State. Choices always have to be made. Thus, international efforts should be directed to ensure that decisions on policy objectives and priorities are taken by national actors and that international efforts are there mainly to assist, and not to replace, those of State authorities.

Secondly, we should view civilian assistance tasks as requiring attention from the early stages of post-conflict reconstruction. Mandates should be clear in identifying the role and functions of peacekeepers as early peacebuilders in such areas as the multidimensional tasks of rule of law and security sector reform. The United Nations must ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach to its presence in a given country, and work on concrete measures to improve the linkage between civilian and political tasks and those tasks traditionally performed by peacekeepers. In many situations, this articulation is crucial to preventing a relapse into conflict.

Thirdly, we are very encouraged by the recommendations regarding the capacity of the United Nations to provide the kind of civilian expertise that is needed in a particular post-conflict situation. Our

understanding is that the United Nations must show greater flexibility and adaptability to changing situations. If certain tasks are no longer necessary, resources allocated to those tasks should be transferred to others requiring more attention. The reallocation of resources should be conducted in close consultation with national authorities, identifying and filling existing capacity gaps.

Finally, and in connection with the previous point, I would underline the need for coordination with international actors, which in the report is presented as the establishment of partnerships for ensuring that technical expertise is readily available when needed. Articulation is therefore a central concern in the other stages of post-conflict assistance because it would be much more difficult to adapt and to accommodate different actors at a later stage. However, we should ensure that there is clarity as to who is leading each particular international assistance process in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

Mr. Yang Tao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Chair of the Senior Advisory Group, and Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra for their briefings, as well as Ambassador Gasana for his comments.

Post-conflict peacebuilding is an important part of the United Nations work that is of great significance not only for realizing sustained peace and development in the countries concerned, but also for strengthening the existing collective security system and promoting the common development of humankind. Professional and efficient civilian capacity represents an important foundation and prerequisite for the smooth conduct of the work of the United Nations.

The Senior Advisory Group led by Mr. Guéhenno has submitted its report (see S/2011/85), which contains concrete proposals highlighting ownership, partnership, expertise and nimbleness. China welcomes this. We hope that the Steering Group to be led by Under-Secretary-General Malcorra will seriously study and follow up on the plans so as to formulate workable recommendations for the United Nations.

I wish to elaborate on a number of points. First, full use should be made of the resources of host countries, which would promote ownership by host countries of peacebuilding processes. Given their more in-depth knowledge of their own societies, professionals from host countries can play a unique

role in United Nations peacebuilding activities. More important, after the withdrawal of peacebuilders, a group of professionals will be left behind in host countries, thus reinforcing national capacities and sustaining peace and development.

Secondly, the targeted selection of personnel should be strengthened. Security sector reform, the rule of law, human rights and economic and social development are the priorities for peacebuilding. The United Nations and the international community should, in line with the conditions and needs of the host country, focus on recruiting, selecting and training professionals in these areas, thus contributing to the capacity-building of the host countries.

Thirdly, personnel management should be strengthened. We must focus on taking advantage of the expertise to be found in developing countries and regional organizations, and step up efforts to recruit civilian experts from developing countries. Members of the United Nations should be encouraged to actively train and recommend talent to the United Nations, and to work with the United Nations in building and replenishing talent pools. In recruiting civilian experts, the Secretariat should continue to implement the principles of openness, equity and transparency, improve its vetting procedures, and seek in advance opinions of Member States relating to mechanisms, criteria and guiding principles.

Fourthly, reliable financial resources and security must be provided. We hope that countries in a position to do so will continue to provide practical support and that the United Nations will further optimize its management mechanisms and make rational use of existing resources so as to achieve the maximum possible benefits.

Mrs. Ogbu (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like to thank Mr. Guéhenno for his concise briefing and his able stewardship of the Senior Advisory Group for the Review of International Civilian Capacities. We are also grateful to Ms. Malcorra for sharing the invaluable perspective of the Department of Field Support on this issue. We also recognize the presence of Ambassador Gasana, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, and appreciate his contribution to this debate.

The civilian capacity review is an ambition yet necessary advancement in the effort to make our service delivery more responsive to the needs of

Member States in the twenty-first century. As threats to peace and stability increasingly arise from health and environmental hazards, as well as from armed conflict, our response mechanisms must be recalibrated and optimized. The framework so well delineated in the report before us (see S/2011/85) provides a solid foundation for this project. Nigeria accordingly supports the vision of the review.

The four key pillars which frame the recommendations are very well defined. They aim to strengthen national ownership, broaden and deepen the pool of international civilian capacity and improve the appropriateness, timeliness and effectiveness of United Nations support. There are several peacekeeping and peacebuilding programmes that would benefit from a better harnessing of the capacities of all actors. Indeed, transition situations, such as in South Sudan, that we have identified this morning present opportunities to identify best practices in applying civilian capabilities in consonance with nationally determined priorities.

The need to assess local needs and existing local capacities, including the capacity to absorb assistance, before we even set about deploying international capacities has often been central to our discussion, especially in the Council. This is mostly true of countries emerging from conflict, which face critical shortages of the capacities and institutions to sustain peace. The United Nations system has an obligation to support the development of home-grown capacities while temporarily filling the gaps to re-establish the rule of law and restore basic services.

With this review, we now have a policy proposal that will determine how these strategies are implemented in the field. As the report seeks to enlist all the key actors in this endeavour, we are encouraged by the initial steps taken by the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to review their needs and capacity assessment methodologies to better attune their work in the field. We sincerely hope that the DPKO and the Council can together find ways to reflect certain elements of the review when renewing peacekeeping mandates.

I must say that we are encouraged that the review addressed even the most sensitive areas of analysis, including training for better leaders among a civilian core and creating a culture of accountability. The recommendations in this regard acknowledge that, as a

facilitator and partner for peace, the United Nations must be guided in its every action by the needs and priorities of the communities that we serve.

Nigeria would very much like to see this review as a catalyst for change. It is with satisfaction, therefore, that we welcome the Secretary-General's decision to establish a Steering Group empowered to facilitate decision-making and pursue coordinated action. We have no doubt that Ms. Malcorra is up to the task of leading the Steering Group. We look forward to receiving the formal views of the Secretary-General and his proposals on concrete reform measures and resource allocation.

The civilian capacity review enjoins all of us to utilize available resources more effectively and more efficiently, to seek out and deploy our brightest and best, and to draw on the full range of global and national capacities. In that way, we can increase the ability of the United Nations to keep pace with changing circumstances in the field.

In concluding, I must state that Nigeria has invaluable experience in building international civilian capacities. The Nigerian Technical Aid Corps Scheme, since its inception 17 years ago, has deployed over 2,000 volunteers to complement national efforts to fill capacity gaps in more than 27 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, in the true spirit of South-South cooperation. Indeed, we have shared technical know-how and expertise with recipient countries based on assessed and perceived needs. In supporting the review, we are willing to offer lessons learned and to work closely with the United Nations.

Mr. Barbalic (Bosnia and Herzegovina): Bosnia and Herzegovina highly appreciates this debate on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict. We thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for his briefing. We commend the Senior Advisory Group under his leadership, which provided the Secretary-General with important advice on how to better develop, recruit and rapidly deploy civilian expertise, in close cooperation with national authorities, in order to meet the urgent needs of post-conflict countries. We welcome setting up the Steering Group and the appointment of Ms. Susana Malcorra to provide strategic oversight, views and advice on follow-up and implementation of the review. Of course, we thank Ms. Malcorra and the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Gasana, for their remarks today.

The debate on institution-building during the Bosnia and Herzegovina presidency in January (see S/PV.6472) emphasized the critical role of national ownership in peacebuilding and of drawing on existing national expertise to support the development of national capacity. We are convinced that enhancing the capacity of national institutions should be seen as a core issue of peacebuilding and that this process is among the most relevant steps towards improving the United Nations peacekeeping and peacebuilding performance.

We emphasize that building accountable, legitimate and resilient institutions should be a strategic objective from the early stages of a peacebuilding process. Priority has to be given to the development of those institutions that will prevent relapse into conflict, progressively reduce dependence on the international community's capacities, and promote self-reliance by creating stable, viable and responsive domestic institutions.

In the past, we have seen how the international community has, in particular cases, faced challenges and difficulties in promoting the national capacities necessary for an enduring peace in a post-conflict environment. The civilian aspects of post-conflict peacebuilding often lag behind police and military efforts in given settings.

We support recommendations on prioritizing national capacities and providing expertise tailored and adapted to the specific needs of a post-conflict country. Strengthening national ownership of peace processes by supporting core Government functions, such as aid coordination and policy management, is essential. Nurturing national capacities can contribute to improving the economic impact of various international interventions and achieving sustainable peace. The co-location of international experts is desirable when needed and where appropriate.

The issue of civilian capacity is of a cross-cutting nature. We are of the view that it provides an opportunity for improving cooperation with Member States in this area. Creating an effective mechanism for cooperation will enable peacekeeping operations or political missions to draw upon the civilian capacities of Member States or regional organizations while the United Nations acts as a platform for qualified expertise. It should contribute to better matching needs with capacities. Nevertheless, the United Nations needs

to work more on better coordinating its activities with Member States in order to make more efficient use of existing capacity. Improving guidance on enabling capacity-building and improving training resources is especially important. Planning processes need to include host Government views, expertise and priorities from the outset.

It is necessary to clarify roles and responsibilities with regard to the lead responsibility for the development and deployment of civilian expertise in core peacebuilding sectors. We believe it crucial to harmonize overlapping mandates and various policy perspectives with a view to providing agile and more relevant United Nations support.

Responding to changing circumstances requires greater flexibility in everyday operations in the field. To that end, getting the right people to the right places at the right time is an imperative and requires the system to define areas of responsibility and accountability. The United Nations must ensure that planning processes have sufficient capacities to adequately address gender issues. The participation of women and their inclusion in all processes is of the utmost importance.

Although some recommendations from this review can be easily and quickly implemented, we are fully aware that a number of them will require more detailed elaboration and certain organizational reform. We support the application of recommendations related to national ownership, capacity-building and lessons learned in order to achieve a practical difference on the ground.

Work in conflict-affected areas entails the transformation of United Nations structures, using lessons learned, drawing on the expertise of Member States and other bodies, and innovative methods of work for mandate delivery and operational success. Greater flexibility and better responsiveness to nationally identified priorities are indispensable. While the United Nations is the most legitimate agent of the international community, civilian capacity is undoubtedly an integral part therefore.

The United Nations, Member States, international organizations and donors must do more in order to increase flexibility, efficiency and the impact of our common efforts in post-conflict settings. Designing adequate responses, choosing the right mix of instruments at the right time, allocating resources

based on comparative advantage and the search for optimal solutions never end. Finally, responsive civilian capacity is a shared responsibility in supporting and building durable peace.

Mr. Alzate (Colombia) (spoke in Spanish): My delegation thanks Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for his statement and, through him, all the members of the Senior Advisory Group who contributed to the report on the civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (see S/2011/85). We also thank Ms. Susanna Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Ambassador Gasana, Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, for their comprehensive statements.

In recent months, the Security Council has held a series of debates in which a clear need has been recognized to analyse and develop strategies to allow us better to respond to the major challenges facing our Organization, to effectively and efficiently address the needs of post-conflict societies, and to prevent the resurgence of conflict. The establishment and improvement of civilian capacities are crucial to the support that the international community must provide to countries emerging from conflict so as to ensure that, in the medium and long terms, the State and society in question are able independently to deliver the services and public assets that make it possible not only to stabilize and build peace, but also to strengthen processes towards national unity and the well-being and development of their people.

It is well known that there is no one-size-fits-all solution and that strategies to respond to the challenges of a post-conflict situation must be based on a very specific analysis of conditions in the field. The Senior Advisory Group's approach is therefore of particular relevance, given that the four core principles on which its report focuses reflect the general framework within which the United Nations can take nimble, timely and coordinated action with respect to civilian capacity-building, in full compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

National ownership is undoubtedly a guiding principle in enhancing civilian capacity-building in all its aspects. In that respect, ongoing cooperation and consultations with States emerging from conflict are *sine qua non* to identifying key Government functions to be prioritized as the need to resort to international capacity in essential areas is assessed. It is also of the greatest importance to give pride of place to national

markets for the provision of goods and services as a way of stimulating local economies and identifying local needs. Partnership with other interested parties is another factor that must be the focus of special attention.

While nimble and flexible instruments are needed to provide specialized capacities that the Organization is not always in a position to furnish, the quality and legal framework of its performance and the accountability of its partners must meet the standards required by the United Nations. There is also a need for the Organization to provide clear leadership in the execution of the tasks included in mandates.

In addressing the issue of technical competencies, the report once again shows the need to ensure that the entire United Nations system works in a coordinated and coherent manner, with a view to avoiding duplication and ensuring efficient use of available resources. In that context, human resource management must address the need to quickly and efficiently deploy specialized personnel in large-scale field operations, without creating unnecessary disparities and while preserving geographical diversity and promoting merit.

There is a clear need to establish more flexible, timely and cost-efficient systems, providing flexibility with regard to the responses required by the changing environment on the ground. In that regard, it is essential to give the necessary consideration to budgetary implications and contributions from States, as well as the need to fulfil the mandates established by the competent bodies of the Organization.

Conflict-affected countries need effective national political processes, strong institutions and economic development to build lasting peace. Supporting those processes with civilian capacities that respond to local needs and priorities while also building national capacities to that end is a shared responsibility of affected societies and the international community. We encourage the Steering Group to continue the process of broad consultations already begun, paying the necessary attention to the views of all States.

The President (spoke in French): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as the representative of France.

I would like to thank Mr. Guéhenno, Ms. Malcorra and Ambassador Gasana for their briefings.

It is logical for the General Assembly to have yesterday considered the report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (see S/2011/85), which the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission introduced during today's debate, just as it is that the Secretariat has already begun to follow-up the proposals of the Senior Advisory Group led by Jean-Marie Guéhenno. The implementation of the report requires a joint effort by the entire United Nations, including the commitment of the Secretariat and the support of Member States, as was the case with the Brahimi report on peacekeeping operations and military capacities (S/2000/809).

The report on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict is part of our efforts to improve the performance of the United Nations on the ground. We have a collective interest in ensuring that its goals are achieved. Moreover, we should avoid ideological debates and focus on the essential, namely, how to get the most benefit from the report that has been presented to us and how to help the Secretariat to implement it in the best way possible.

I should like to focus on three issues that are at the heart of the reflection carried out by the experts that are of direct concern to the Security Council.

First of all, the priority is national ownership. As we have said frequently in Security Council debates, there can be no lasting reconstruction without national ownership. In that regard, as rightly pointed out in the report, local human resources within civilian capacity support structures in post-conflict countries is of crucial importance.

Secondly, partnerships must be expanded. The Senior Advisory Group has suggested establishing a civilian partnerships cell to facilitate matching needs with the capacities of different countries. That is exactly what France proposed in the context of the Group of Eight working group on peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which we currently chair. In that regard, countries of the South can provide more civilian capacity. That does not mean that the countries of the North can forego their responsibility in the areas of peacekeeping and development. It is not a matter of transferring the burden, but rather of taking advantage of more effective expertise by virtue of being closer to reality on the ground. The goal should be to strengthen the trilateral cooperation between donors, those that

provide personnel and the host country. This is a concern for everyone.

Lastly, we should encourage initiative on the ground. We therefore support the idea proposed by the Senior Advisory Group to provide a broader margin for decision-making to Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in the internal management of civilian resources. This is a productive proposal that could improve coordination with the funds, programmes and agencies in the use of their resources, thereby contributing to instilling a culture based on results in the management of resources.

As we see routinely in our debates in the Council, the needs with regard to civilian capacity are numerous, varied and tend to increase with the complexity of the situations in which United Nations intervention is required. The United Nations must therefore be able to adapt, often in a short span of time. Effectiveness requires a certain level of flexibility in the use of civilian capacity. It also requires rigorous and responsible management of financial and human resources.

Following up on these recommendations cannot be done without the participation of all Member States and on the basis of consensus. The recommendations to be made by the Secretary-General should be considered by the entire membership, in particular at the Fifth Committee. We cannot properly carry out these important reforms without moving ahead gradually and in unison.

I once again thank Mr. Jean-Marie Guéhenno for the excellent work done by the Senior Advisory Group on civilian capacity. I also thank the Chairman of the Peacebuilding Commission for his interest in the report. Lastly, I think that I can say on behalf of the entire Council that we have every confidence in Ms. Susana Malcorra in connection with the follow-up she has initiated on the experts' proposals. We shall closely consider the next report on the Secretary-General on this subject.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.



Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

6534th meetingThursday, 12 May 2011, 3 p.m.
New York

Provisional

President:	Mr. Araud	(France)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Ms. Ziade
	Nigeria	Mr. Amieyeofori
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

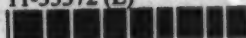
Agenda

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2011/281)

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11-33372 (E)



Please recycle



The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998), 1239 (1999) and 1244 (1999)

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (S/2011/281)

The President (*spoke in French*): Unless I hear any objection, under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure I shall invite the representative of Serbia to participate in this meeting.

It is so decided.

Unless I hear any objection, under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure I shall invite Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, to participate in this meeting.

It is so decided.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2011/281, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo.

I now give the floor to Mr. Lamberto Zannier.

Mr. Zannier: The report before the Council (S/2011/281) describes the activities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from 16 January to 15 April 2011. Today, I wish to update members on recent developments and, more generally, on the key current issues concerning Kosovo.

In the wake of the latest constitutional crisis, which was resolved with the election by the Kosovo

Assembly of Ms. Atifete Jahjaga as President, Kosovo now appears to be heading towards a period of increased political stability. This in turn should be conducive to further progress in the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, which is key to finding solutions to the unresolved issues that hamper Kosovo's development.

The dialogue has gotten off to a positive start with three face-to-face meetings between the Serbian and the Kosovo representatives to date, during which discussions have focused on issues of importance to the day-to-day lives of Kosovo's inhabitants, including civil registration, freedom of movement, and telephony. UNMIK, though not physically present in the discussions, has been supporting the dialogue process and cooperating both with the European Union facilitation team and with the two sides, and will continue to support the process in any way that is helpful.

I am hopeful that both Pristina and Belgrade will demonstrate the resolve needed to find solutions to all relevant issues in a constructive spirit so as to solve problems for all communities, as well as to create better conditions for progress on reconciliation and for the further advancement of the entire region towards a common European future. I consider particularly positive the fact that today there was a meeting in Pristina between local senior Government officials and the Serbian chief negotiator, and I hope that this may pave the way for future progress in the engagement between the two sides. On a less positive note, however, I regret to inform the Council that a street protest against the visit escalated into violence that resulted in a number of injuries. Such violence undermines the dialogue and needs to be firmly condemned.

In general, allow me to point out that it is essential, particularly during this phase, for the parties to approach the situation on the ground cooperatively and with due respect for the concerns of all the communities. Solutions that foster trust between Kosovo's communities stand a much greater chance of serving the interests of long-term peace and stability.

One area where relations between the communities are particularly difficult is the north of Kosovo. Work has largely concluded on renovating the courthouse in northern Mitrovica, which was the scene of an occupation and action to regain the court just

over three years ago that resulted in the death of an UNMIK police officer and scores of injured. Since those events, only a small group of international judges and prosecutors — a first UNMIK staff and now European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) staff — have been working in the courthouse intermittently. Nonetheless, the issues that led to the occupation remain unresolved and still contentious. In order to restore a fully functioning administration of justice in northern Kosovo, which should not be further delayed. There needs to be progress in the engagement between the sides and with the communities that the court will serve.

Another controversial issue related to the north of Kosovo is the census, which was held in the rest of Kosovo last month. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), as a status-neutral entity, agreed to conduct the census in northern Kosovo, and UNMIK supported this process by facilitating meetings between UNOPS and local institutions in the north and by providing support through the UNMIK-run administration for north Mitrovica.

It was expected that the census in northern Kosovo would begin in early May but, regrettably, as of today there is no start date. The process has been unduly politicized, and UNOPS reports that cooperation from local institutions on a number of operational aspects has not been forthcoming, in particular with regard to the formation of local census commissions and the recruitment of field staff. This situation, if not rectified, will be detrimental for everybody. Without the proper collection of data on the dimension and composition of the communities, it will be more difficult to plan the much-needed interventions to promote the economic and social development of the region.

Looking more generally at the state of the economy in Kosovo, referred to in some detail in the Secretary-General's report, the situation remains of concern due to high unemployment and heavy public spending, notably on public sector wages and transport infrastructure, which has led to the suspension of substantial external budget support by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the European Commission. Although there are expectations of significant economic growth, there is still a lack of foreign investment. Moreover, inflation is rising, and in March the consumer price index was 10.8 per cent higher than it had been one year before.

The IMF and some recognizing States have offered advice and support to the Kosovo authorities in developing more realistic economic programme. It is now expected that the Kosovo authorities will focus their energies and attention on carrying out the necessary adjustments.

The lack of economic prospects is also one of the main obstacles to the returns process, which remains disappointingly slow and in some instances unsustainable. Although in 2010 minority returns were greater than at any other time in the past six years, totalling 2,275 individuals, the first quarter of 2011 shows a 53 per cent decrease in voluntary returns compared to last year, with Kosovo Serbs constituting fewer than one in four returnees. While the policy of the Kosovo authorities remains open to encouraging returns, we have witnessed persisting problems at the local level, where economic pressures and lack of reconciliation have created tensions between receiving communities and returnees.

The lack of reconciliation is in fact another key impediment to returns. Despite the dialogue and occasional attempts by various bodies, mainly non-governmental organizations, reconciliation remains an issue that has been insufficiently tackled. Nevertheless, the continuing efforts being made to clarify the fates and locations of missing persons and to identify their bodily remains — an essential part of the overall process of reconciliation — are resulting in slow but steady progress. As I have noted in past addresses to the Council, UNMIK supports efforts by Pristina, Belgrade, EULEX and the International Committee of the Red Cross to identify all of Kosovo's missing persons, as well as to investigate their disappearance and bring those responsible to justice.

In this regard, allow me now to turn to the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly resolution 1782 (2011), calling for an investigation of allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo, which was based on a report by the Parliamentary Assembly's Rapporteur, Dick Marty. It is essential for these allegations to be subject to a thorough, impartial and independent investigation, conducted promptly, for the sake of the victims and their loved ones, as well as for the sake of those whom it is alleged were responsible for the crimes. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, EULEX has stated that it has the ability to handle the case, while the Serbian Government has

proposed the establishment of an ad hoc mechanism under the authority of the Security Council. In any event, UNMIK remains fully available to cooperate with such an investigation, in the awareness that while these allegations are pending, it will be even harder for reconciliation to take root.

Following further progress in the so-called unfixing of Kosovo Force (KFOR) protection of a number of key Serbian Orthodox Church sites, the Kosovo Police has taken over protection responsibilities, thus far without incident. However, the Secretary-General's report mentions the discovery of the theft of 13 square metres of lead sheet roofing from the Virgin Ljeviška church in Prizren. Events such as this could seriously undermine the Serbian Orthodox Church's confidence in the protection offered by the Kosovo Police. For this reason, I requested KFOR, which was initially in charge of protection for this church, to provide information on the matter. On 3 May, KFOR Commander Major General Erhard Bühler, informed me that a German military police investigation had determined, based upon photographic evidence and witness statements, that the lead sheeting was in fact most likely removed between April and July 2008, when the church was guarded by a private security company. Kosovo Police assumed responsibility for guarding the church in February 2009.

Finally, UNMIK continues to play a key role in facilitating Kosovo's participation in regional and international forums where non-recognizing States are present. These have most recently included meetings on justice, regional integration and transport. As reported, the 2011 UNMIK/Kosovo chairmanship of the Central European Free Trade Agreement has gotten under way with a first meeting held in Brussels. Pristina and Belgrade have indicated their willingness to go along with a loosely defined formula for the conduct of the meetings during this chairmanship year that focuses on making progress on issues of mutual interest, rather than on attempting to derive political advantage from the issue. It is important that this constructive approach should continue with a view to resolving a number of important outstanding issues, such as the use and acceptance of Kosovo customs stamps. In this, as well as in other instances, the Pristina authorities have recently taken a more pragmatic approach to interaction with UNMIK.

In conclusion, on behalf of all UNMIK staff, I wish to thank the Council for its continued support and to assure it of our full commitment to the implementation of the mandate with which it has entrusted us.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Zannier for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia.

Mr. Jeremić (Serbia): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting of the Security Council on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), pursuant to resolution 1244 (1999).

I welcome the presence of Special Representative Lamberto Zannier and gratefully acknowledge the unequivocal statement in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281) that the Mission's priorities remain unchanged.

We believe it is critical for all responsible stakeholders on the ground, together with the Security Council, to reaffirm support for UNMIK as an indispensable pillar of peace and security. We echo the importance that the Secretary-General places on the close coordination required of all international actors that operate within the framework and under the authority of the United Nations and resolution 1244 (1999), including the Kosovo Force (KFOR), the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Mission in Kosovo.

We also reiterate our support for UNMIK's ongoing commitment to the external representation function for Kosovo. We continue to be deeply concerned, however, that the province's ethnic Albanian authorities remain fundamentally sceptical on this issue. Today's report suggests, on the one hand, that they appeared to be taking a pragmatic attitude". On the other hand, the same document highlights Pristina's continuing unwillingness to attend a number of regional meetings, for which UNMIK's facilitation is required, including sessions of the Regional Cooperation Council.

Serbia hopes that the constructive and inclusive approach offered by UNMIK will be embraced at long last. Adhering to established procedures and legally binding agreements is the only way to ensure that

regional cooperation continues to improve under the current set of circumstances, which have been severely complicated by the 17 February 2008 unilateral declaration of independence of the ethnic Albanian authorities of our southern province.

I would like to once again reaffirm my Government's position on the unilateral declaration of independence. We do not, and we will not, recognize it, explicitly or implicitly. This is mandated by the democratic will of the people of Serbia and enshrined in our Constitution. A substantial majority of States Members of the United Nations, and of those seated on the Security Council, continue to respect Serbia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, in accordance with the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Final Act.

On behalf of my nation, I would like to reiterate our deep gratitude for their support and solidarity in the face of numerous pressures. We urge them to maintain their principled position, thus ensuring that unilateral attempts to impose outcomes to ethnic and territorial disputes are not legitimized, and thereby preventing Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from becoming a dangerous and destabilizing precedent for the whole world. This will also contribute to maintaining a healthy international environment within which the negotiations between Serbia and Pristina can continue.

Last September, the world supported by acclamation the fact that dialogue is the only road to peace in Kosovo. I want to emphasize that Serbia remains strongly committed to these talks, which finally got under way during this reporting period. The Secretary-General has observed that while the long-awaited launch of the dialogue is an encouraging development, it is still too early to assess its results. The report characterizes the dialogue as being conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere. Indeed, a strong foundation has been laid for arriving at consensual solutions to all outstanding issues. We hope that the forward momentum will be maintained, strengthening the spirit of compromise that holds the key to success in this endeavour.

Discussions have taken place on the following topics: civil registry, cadastral records, telecommunications, electricity, civil aviation and a package of issues defined as freedom of movement. Some progress has been achieved. For instance, a

working group was established and tasked with ascertaining the current state of the civil registry books. Agreement has already been reached on practical arrangements regarding UNMIK's chairmanship of the Central European Free Trade Agreement for 2011, within the framework of resolution 1244 (1999). It was also agreed that neither the facilitator nor any other stakeholder would attempt to unilaterally impose any outcome on the parties, as after the unsuccessful Ahtisaari process. Serbia will remain a constructive participant in the dialogue, and will continue to offer multiple proposals for each topic.

We firmly believe that the United Nations needs to be present during the negotiating sessions. This is a transparent process, and we have nothing to hide from the Organization. We therefore appeal to all those who insist that the United Nations must be left out of the room to reconsider their positions, especially in the light of the Secretary-General's continuing dedication, as stated in today's report, "to ensure an effective exchange of information and reporting on the dialogue to the Security Council" (*S/2011/281, para. 59*).

The Council's leading role in determining and providing legitimacy to a comprehensive settlement remains indispensable, in accordance with resolution 1244 (1999) and the Council's primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

Let me underline how critically important it is that no one tries to alter realities on the ground unilaterally. Numerous reports by the Secretary-General have warned us of that danger, including the one before us today. The province's ethnic-Albanian authorities have repeatedly sought to extend the reach of their Pristina-based institutions to North Kosovo, against the will of the local population, including multiple attempts to deploy heavily armed special police units. According to the report, this has increased tensions. The report also states that the majority-Serb community of North Kosovo perceives these provocations as

"not being dictated by rule of law considerations but, rather, as being intended to intimidate the local population and impose Pristina structures upon them without their consent" (*ibid., para. 19*).

We remain deeply concerned by these and other unilateral measures against Kosovo Serbs. Addressing the General Assembly last September, President Boris

Tadić clearly stated our position on this matter: "Any attempt to change these realities through the use of force would bring an immediate end to the process of dialogue." (A/65/PV.16, p. 10)

The Secretary-General's report underscores recent developments in Serbian cultural and religious heritage issues in Kosovo. We appreciate UNMIK's key role in facilitating UNESCO's activities in the province, as well as the work of the Council of Europe-led Reconstruction and Implementation Commission, which we believe should continue under the terms of its existing mandate.

As the report indicates, Orthodox churches and graveyards continue to be desecrated, with arrests for attacks on places that represent the core of Serbian national identity remaining few and far between. This unfortunately indicates the preponderance of a culture of impunity that tolerates extremism and hate crimes. A prime example of the current state of affairs is the Church of the Virgin Ljeviška, located in the centre of the ancient Serbian capital of Prizren. The church was placed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger following the March 2004 pogrom. Nevertheless, it has remained a target for extremists.

On 13 April, Bishop Teodosije of Raška-Prizren and of all of Kosovo and Metohija wrote a letter to Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zannier in connection with the most recent large-scale theft of the shrine's led roof. This crime, which local authorities charged with protecting the site did not even report, has further damaged the early fourteenth-century frescoes that were commissioned by Serbia's King Milutin. It is the third such act of vandalism since the March 2004 pogrom. The manifest inability to protect one of the most important heritage sites in Southeast Europe needs to be addressed. As Bishop Teodosije's letter to Special Representative Zannier concludes, after so many failures of the local authorities to protect our holy sites, a more adequate long-term international protection of the Serbian Orthodox heritage in Kosovo is more than necessary.

Viewed in this light, the ongoing commitment of KFOR to maintain a static presence at some of our most important holy sites is absolutely critical. These include the Dević monastery, the Visoki Dečani and the Patriarchate of Peć, both of which remain on the UNESCO List of World Heritage in Danger. Given the rising tide of tension in Prizren, we also call on KFOR

to redeploy a guard unit to the Cathedral of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviška.

The Secretary-General's report paints a bleak picture of the overall situation in South Kosovo. Domestic political turmoil dominated the reporting period, it says. Sharp divisions came to the surface in the wake of the controversial results of last year's election. That led to a political crisis that culminated in a court ruling that brought to an end the 35-day-old presidency of Behgjet Pacolli. Following what the report terms "intensive talks and diplomatic mediation," Atifete Jahjaga — who until then was the Deputy General Director of the Kosovo police — was picked to be the new President.

Last week, the European Police Office (Europol) released its biennial European Union (EU) Organized Crime Threat Assessment. That report identifies Kosovo as a major European organized crime hub and states that Albanian-speaking groups "remain the most prominent in trafficking heroin to and within the EU". One of Europol's key judgments is that these criminal groups are among the best resourced in Europe, drawing their membership from individuals with a secret service, police or paramilitary background. The Threat Assessment concludes that some of their proceeds are reportedly destined for support organizations of the former Kosovo Liberation Army, or the KLA.

Key public figures, mostly former KLA leaders, stand at the very centre of serious allegations contained in a deeply disturbing report — overwhelmingly approved by the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly on 25 January — entitled "Inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo". The report claims that the KLA leadership is responsible for kidnapping hundreds of Serb civilians before, during and after the 1999 conflict, and that those abductees were sent from Kosovo to secret detention camps in the Republic of Albania. According to the report, the captives were forced into surgery, before being left to die. Their internal organs, once extracted, were sold on the international black market.

This represents a uniquely monstrous practice in the voluminous annals of brutal warfare in Europe and has shocked the conscience of the world. The tragic situation has been aggravated by the deeply disturbing fact that for years, to quote from that Council of

Europe report, "international actors chose to turn a blind eye to the war crimes of the KLA, placing a premium instead on achieving some degree of short-term stability". The report concludes that "certain crimes committed by members of the KLA, including some top KLA leaders, were effectively concealed and have remained unpunished".

We plead for the full truth in the allegations of human-organs trafficking to be established and for justice to be done. If that is our common goal, there is only one way forward, and it requires action by the Security Council.

To that end, the Republic of Serbia has made a formal proposal in the form of a concept paper that has been designated as an official Security Council document (see S/2011/256) at the request of the Secretary-General. No existing institution can either conduct a comprehensive investigation or ensure the cooperation of all concerned. Only a mechanism created by the Security Council can do that. Without it, any number of alleged participants in the human-organs trafficking criminal conspiracy could remain beyond reach. Justice would be ill served should anyone implicated in this heinous endeavour not answer for what he did because of mandate or jurisdictional limitations.

It is in this context that we should examine the precipitous assertion made by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), in a press release of 28 January, that it has the capacity, the expertise, the location and the jurisdiction to conduct the investigation. That is factually incorrect, as our concept paper describes in detail. The truth is that EULEX — which classifies itself as a technical mission — can operate only within Kosovo, and nowhere else, whereas the alleged criminal trail leads not only to a number of European countries but also into parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Let us turn for a moment to the contemporary Medicus case, as mentioned in Annex 1 of the Secretary-General's report. This case involves another criminal conspiracy to source human organs for illicit trafficking and mirrors in many ways the KLA-led operation. While EULEX has been able to indict a number of ethnic Albanians on various charges, two of the ringleaders — both foreigners — have fled Kosovo and cannot be extradited. Therefore, even if all the

defendants currently in the custody of EULEX are convicted, justice will be only partially served.

While EULEX cannot conduct a comprehensive investigation on its own, it should play a crucial role in uncovering the truth about what happened inside Kosovo itself. To be an effective part of the ad hoc investigation mechanism, however, EULEX will need to assure its full statutory independence from the ethnic Albanian institutions. Right now, EULEX bases its investigative and prosecutorial competencies on legislation passed by Pristina.

EULEX will also have to upgrade its current support capacities by providing, inter alia, a more effective witness protection and relocation programme. That will guarantee credible testimony by all without fear of retribution. In addition, EULEX will have to act far more decisively than it has, for example, in the case of Fatmir Limaj, a former Minister of Transport and Telecommunications indicted in connection with allegations of war crimes. As Annex 1 to the Secretary-General's report acknowledges, more than two months have passed since the latest unsuccessful attempt by EULEX to clarify the issue of his supposed immunity from prosecution. Limaj continues to mock EULEX efforts to arrest him and continues to be a free man.

In each previous instance involving war crimes in the Balkans — whichever side the perpetrators belonged to and irrespective of their political roles — the Security Council has given a mandate to investigate. We ask for nothing more, and we have no moral right to settle for anything less. If all investigations into war crimes committed by Serbs received mandates from this body, then why should the investigation of war crimes committed against Serbs not take place under the auspices of the Security Council as well? With malice towards none and with firmness in the right, we ask: what possible explanation could there be for such a double standard? Like must be treated as like. No suspected war criminals in the Balkans should ever enjoy any sort of privileges, immunities or protections.

The Secretary-General, in his letter of 3 May addressed to you, Mr. President (S/2011/281), expressed his support for an in-depth, impartial and independent investigation into the serious allegations of human organs trafficking. The United Nations, the letter concludes, will cooperate fully with such an investigation, should one be carried out.

This is a black and white situation. No nuance is possible here, for there must be no gray area when it comes to war crimes. On behalf of my nation, I appeal to the Security Council to support our plea to thoroughly investigate allegations of the harvesting and smuggling of organs of innocent Serbian civilians. We will not rest or retreat until the full truth about what happened is uncovered. This is our solemn obligation to all the victims of this terrible inhumanity and to their families. We must not let them down.

This matter also constitutes an integral part of the reconciliation process and is itself a prerequisite to establishing a lasting peace between Serbs and Albanians. Let us come together in the service of justice and see that it gets done through a comprehensive, independent investigation accountable to the whole world.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

Mr. Hoxhaj: Let me start by expressing, on behalf of the people and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, our profound gratitude for the Council's attention to the latest developments in the Republic of Kosovo during the most recent reporting period.

We have gathered here yet again to discuss the issues related to the post-independence situation in Kosovo. Some members may remember that there have been many times in the past when reports from Kosovo spoke more of challenges and problems than of solutions and positive developments. I am here today to provide the Council with a first-hand account of recent positive developments, but let me also thank the members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General and his Special Representative, Mr. Lamberto Zannier, for their strong role in our young country.

The United Nations presence in Kosovo has been one of the international community's largest nation-building efforts in the modern history, and these efforts have borne fruit. The independence of Kosovo in the last three years has produced peace, stability and security in the region, and Kosovo is today gaining its rightful place in the community of free nations.

As the Council has heard from Mr. Zannier, over the past months Kosovo passed through a dynamic period. Our young Republic has consolidated its institutions in the pursuit of good governance and

political stability. A constitutional crisis was initiated by the resignation of former President Fatmir Sejdiu, and we had national elections that passed through rigorous tests and challenges in both the courts and the Central Election Commission. After certification of the results — to which no party objected — we formed a new Government under the leadership of our former and present Prime Minister, Hashim Thaçi.

The Democratic Party of Kosovo, the party that won the most votes, entered into coalition discussions with relevant political stakeholders. In the end, common ground was found with the New Kosovo Alliance, the Serb Independent Liberal Party and Turkish, Bosniak and other smaller parties. This coalition formed a dynamic and multi-ethnic Government that is prepared to lead Kosovo towards greater strength and integration in the community of democracies.

After the final certification of election results, members of the parliament elected Mr. Behgjet Pacolli as the President. Opposition parties filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court objecting to the procedures of Mr. Pacolli's election. Less than a month later, the Court ruled that the new President was elected in violation of constitutional quorum and candidate requirements.

That unexpected decision provided a moment of political challenge that tested yet again the strength of the governing coalition. However, it is important to note that at no time did any party in Kosovo oppose or object to the Constitutional Court's role or its decision. The Government and the people of Kosovo respected our institutions, and they recognize the importance of the Court's independence as the arbiter of Kosovo's Constitution. This is a primary example of Kosovo's dedication to the rule of law.

Kosovo came through these challenges when the governing coalition and the largest opposition party showed that they were ready to elevate national interests for stable governance above narrow political interests. The Government and opposition reached a compromise that supported the election of Atifete Jahjaga as President of the Republic of Kosovo.

President Jahjaga is the first woman to be elected as head of State in the Balkans. She brings to the office a lifetime of dedicated public service, having worked for years with the Kosovo Police trained by the United Nations. She is a non-partisan leader who represents all

of Kosovo. This development is good for Kosovo, good for the region and good for the world.

The governing coalition now leads in a stable political environment and enjoys the participation of ethnic minorities from Serb, Turkish, Bosniak, Roma and other communities, who have 25 seats in the 120-seat Parliament. For the first time in the history of Kosovo, the Government also includes a Deputy Prime Minister and three ministers from the Serb community. Kosovo Serbs are represented at all levels of the Government and civil service. This development reflects Kosovo's status as a functional multi-ethnic democracy that celebrates and draws strength from its diversity.

Kosovo's communities have rejected the Republic of Serbia's politics of division. Their participation in Kosovo's institutions in the central and local Governments shows that Kosovo has unified around the promise of a representative democracy that gives a voice to all of its members.

We are happy to report to the members of Security Council that more Serbs participated in Kosovo's elections than in the illegal elections organized by the Serbian Government in the past in some parts of Kosovo.

It is important to note that the parallel Government of Serbia institutions that continue their corrupt activities in some parts of Kosovo are illegal, according to the Security Council's own decisions.

President Jahjaga is not the only Kosovan woman receiving international attention nowadays. The Government of Kosovo has also named Ms. Edita Tahiri as a Deputy Prime Minister and the country's special representative to lead Kosovo's delegation in the dialogue with the Government of Serbia. Kosovo recognizes the importance of this dialogue with Serbia and is taking part in the discussions at the highest level.

We accepted the invitation of the European Union (EU) to engage in dialogue with Serbia, which was welcomed by the General Assembly when it acknowledged the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice. If I may remind members, the Court confirmed the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence.

The Government of Kosovo has engaged fully in the EU-facilitated dialogue. It is a good opportunity for

both Kosovo and Serbia to put the past behind us. Our focus is on a future that will see both the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia enter the European Union as equals, as independent States.

With the facilitation of Mr. Robert Cooper as EU representative, Deputy Prime Minister Tahiri has met three times with Serbia's representative to the dialogue, Mr. Borislav Stefanović. We have opened several topics of discussion in the dialogue, and there are indeed many unresolved issues between the two sides. I would like to inform the Council that today that the first visit of Mr. Stefanović happened in Pristina, the Republic of Kosovo, and very soon representatives of the Republic of Kosovo will visit Belgrade.

I assure the Council that Kosovo is ready for and committed to finding new and creative ways to improve the lives of all citizens and to assist Serbia in coming to terms with our independence. That should bring a package of solutions in areas of importance to the daily lives of the citizens of both countries. It should show the world that the Balkan people want peace and prosperity. We do not want to enhance ethnic divisions or to reopen old wounds.

The Government of Kosovo expects two things from the dialogue. First, we want creative solutions that respect our constitutional order, set up by Special Envoy of the Secretary-General President Ahtisaari. We want to solve practical issues, such as the mutual recognition of documents, license plates, airspace, school and university diplomas, telephone communication and others.

We want to extend freedom of movement for the people of Kosovo across the Balkans. Today, the people of Kosovo can travel to most neighbouring countries and most of the world with their Kosovo passports, including many countries that have yet to recognize us as an independent State. Serbia, on the other hand, still refuses to acknowledge documents issued in Kosovo, just as it refused to accept documents formerly issued by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. Such artificial and wholly political restriction on the freedom of movement in the region has not helped the dialogue or reconciliation between the two peoples and their countries. While Serbia might question the right of Kosovo to exist as a State, there is no question whatsoever that Serbia itself has no right to exercise any type of authority within the borders of Kosovo.

Our second goal for the dialogue is linked to the first. The Government and the people of Kosovo are tired of conflict and propaganda. We want to look forward and to engage in a process of reconciliation with Serbia. There have been many instances in our common history in the Balkans when people of the region have cooperated with each other. As both countries move towards EU membership, now is the time to shake hands again and to look to each other as equal partners. We are ready to talk about solutions that promote the rule of law and preserve Kosovo as a unified legal space, in accordance with the Constitution of Kosovo.

The Kosovo Government wants to prove beyond doubt its willingness to meet, discuss and agree with its neighbours as a fundamental condition of European integration. It is in Kosovo's and Europe's strategic interest to enable the free movement of people and goods within the framework of EU integration. For that purpose, the Government established a special Ministry of European Integration to ensure that we meet European Union standards. It will set the conditions for Kosovars to join the rest of the Balkan States in the visa-free zone within Europe.

The eyes of the world are focused on Kosovo and Serbia during this dialogue. I assure members of the Council here today that Kosovo wants friendly relations with all of its neighbours. We recognize that as a precondition for a stable and peaceful Balkans.

I promise the Council that we will not allow extremist elements to distract us from our objectives. We call on the Government of Serbia to join us in opposing those radical organizations that have used nationalist language, as well as violence, against members of Kosovo's Serb community who have agreed to cooperate with Kosovo's institutions. Serbs across Kosovo participate in the country's democratic institutions. Their involvement in political life has ensured responsive local governance that represents their priorities.

The situation is less positive in the north of Kosovo, where an atmosphere of fear persists. The Government of Kosovo has implemented the Ahtisaari proposal, and is in permanent contact with the international community on a partnership to extend the rule of law and the country's unified legal system.

However, radicals who refuse democracy and claim to represent the Government of Serbia have

prevented the organization of national elections. They have employed intimidation and violence to prevent the local communities and their residents from joining Kosovo's institutions. Those radicals have opposed the efforts of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Kosovo Force to establish the rule of law in northern Kosovo. They have prevented the reopening of the Mitrovica District Court and have obstructed attempts by Kosovo's political leaders to reach out to the population by making personal visits to the communities. Such active obstructions, which have delayed EULEX's core objective of establishing equal and unified rule of law in all of Kosovo, have given rise to the voicing of some discontent among our civil society, media and certain political leaders.

Kosovo is very supportive of EULEX, and the Kosovo Government sees the Rule of Law Mission as its partner. We look to EULEX for support in showing radicals who reject peace and progress in Kosovo that they cannot beat back the tide of the rule of law. EULEX has the resources and the capacity to make a difference in Kosovo. It can promote the rule of law, strengthen the fight against corruption, and investigate former Swiss parliamentarian Dick Marty's allegations of war crimes that took place during the conflict. The Government of Kosovo recognizes EULEX as an independent arbiter of justice that can determine the legitimacy of Mr. Marty's allegations. We invite all sides to deliver any information and evidence that they may have regarding Mr. Marty's allegation to the EULEX prosecutors.

There are a few more items to report from Kosovo. Kosovo has approved its new budget, which includes salary increases for all categories of public employees, from teachers to policemen, doctors and civil servants. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has voiced its concern over the increases. The Government is in close contact with our partners in order to prove the necessity, as well as the prudence, of such increases. Kosovo has managed to close the gap in tax collection, improving revenue collection by more than 30 per cent compared to the previous year. According to the IMF's economic outlook for the year 2011, Kosovo has the fastest growing economy in the Balkans and in Europe. We started from a very low base, but are rapidly catching up.

Kosovo has the third highest growth in wireless Internet connections in Europe. The Kosovo

Government has just started implementing a new plan that will further support economic growth. While the rest of the Balkan States have already privatized their public resources, we will start that process this year. The combined value of investments in telecommunications, energy, agriculture, ski tourism and infrastructure for the next three years is expected to further increase our gross domestic product growth.

That will provide a major push for the economy and enable the Government to pass the baton of development to private and free market-oriented players. All major European banks, insurance companies and airlines have established a base in Pristina. The capital city has one of the lowest crime rates of any capital in Europe. We are aware that some people still associate Kosovo with war, refugees and crisis, but, as any visitor to the new, independent Kosovo can report, the new country is dynamic, young, growing and open for business.

If Kosovo is to enjoy the same benefits as other countries in the Balkans, we need Serbia to stop its obstruction of our participation in the Central European Free Trade Agreement accords. The EU and Kosovo have both proposed various compromises on the issue of the customs stamps used by Kosovo at border posts. We are very sorry to see that Serbia continues to block our producers from moving goods through Serbia. Serbia's action represents an absence of reciprocity, as the Government of Kosovo has maintained an open-door policy to all EU countries and prospective candidates. In fact, Kosovo is a major trading partner for Serbia. We hope that our neighbours will soon refrain from blocking and sanctioning our producers.

Allow me to address another positive development. I am happy to report that we managed to successfully complete the census in almost all of Kosovo. The 2011 census was organized with the help of the Statistical Office of the European Communities and donor agencies that monitored the complex procedure. In June, for the first time in three decades, the central Government will have accurate data on population, unemployment, education, age and gender, among other information.

We have pleaded with Serbia to urge Serbs in Kosovo's northern municipalities to take part in the census that will be conducted by the United Nations Office for Project Services. We are extremely disappointed that Serbian Government representatives

have called for a boycott of this internationally recognized census.

The census has already confirmed what we have long suspected, namely, that more than one third of all Kosovars now live abroad, making Kosovo one of the most widespread populations on the European continent. Kosovars live and work in countries ranging from New Zealand to Germany and from Norway to South Africa. We are proud that our citizens living abroad are now giving something back to their country, in the form of remittances and foreign direct investment.

In conclusion, allow me to add some personal observations regarding the path that lies ahead of us. Since I was appointed to this position, I have travelled a great deal to assess the international position of Kosovo. It is clear that Kosovo is no longer the primary focus of international diplomacy. That is good news and means that there are fewer reasons for the United Nations, the European Union, NATO and other bodies to dedicate as many resources to the Balkans. NATO has now decreased its forces to fewer than 5,000 soldiers. It is clear that Kosovo will have a shrinking need for military support and a growing need for investment, cultural and academic exchanges and political and economic reforms.

When I hear Mr. Jeremić describe Kosovo, I cannot help but wonder at the reasons for his distorted version of the country today. He is out of touch with the facts on the ground. We have worked to accommodate the needs of minority communities and, over the past three years, have invested more than €200 million in implementing the Ahtisaari Plan. Today, Kosovo is a young, stable and vibrant State that provides possibilities for all of its citizens. I thank the United Nations and the international community for facilitating that transformation in Kosovo.

Here and now, we renew the pledge that Kosovo is committed to peace and stability in the Balkans. We welcome the partnership of the United Nations in that shared objective.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I wish to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Lamberto Zannier for his briefing today and for his continuing strong leadership of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). I would also like to welcome Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, the Foreign Minister of Kosovo, and Mr. Vuk Jeremić,

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, to the Council Chamber today.

The past three months have proven to be an important time for Kosovo in consolidating its progress as an independent State. We have witnessed significant political uncertainties since the most recent Security Council debate (see S/PV. 6483), as a new Government was formed. Kosovo's institutions rose to the challenge and set a precedent for responsible, inclusive and democratic Government.

The new Government and the new President have already started work on the issues of key importance to Kosovo's future, namely, European Union (EU) integration, economic reform and regional cooperation, including the EU-facilitated dialogue with Serbia. We welcome the focus on delivering further positive development for all communities living in Kosovo.

The EU-facilitated dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade is clearly vital to the future of both countries and to peace and prosperity in the region. With political will on both sides, the dialogue should deliver practical benefits aimed at improving trade, people-to-people contact and the quality of life of the citizens of Kosovo and Serbia. It will also support the progress of both countries towards EU accession.

The United Kingdom welcomes the pragmatic approach taken by both Belgrade and Pristina during their first three meetings. It is important that they build on that momentum and that both countries continue to engage in a constructive and flexible manner.

Looking at wider developments in Kosovo, we welcome the assessment in the Secretary-General's report (S/2011/281) that the security situation in Kosovo, including in the north, has remained calm. We also welcome the reporting of clear and decisive action having been taken against organized crime and corruption from the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), working in partnership with the Government of Kosovo.

Serious challenges remain. It is essential that the Government of Kosovo continue to actively address priority areas for reform. In particular, I would highlight the rule of law, an area in which Pristina must continue to work closely with EULEX, as well as the legal and regulatory obstacles to foreign investment. I welcome Foreign Minister Hoxhaj's assurance today that Kosovo remains committed to its relationship with

EULEX and continues to seek a trustworthy and dynamic partner in its efforts to reform the rule of law sector.

EULEX is playing an increasingly important role as it takes forward the investigation into Senator Marty's allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. While we note the concerns of some Security Council members, the paper from the Republic of Serbia and the comments of Foreign Minister Jeremić today, we are confident that EULEX fully meets the criteria set out by the Secretary-General when he called for a thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the allegations, with a strong witness-protection programme and the full cooperation of all stakeholders.

Having assumed rule-of-law responsibilities from UNMIK since 2008, EULEX has the authority and jurisdiction to investigate those serious allegations. It is both impartial and independent in carrying out its executive mandate, as evidenced by its work to date on sensitive issues, such as war crimes and missing persons. EULEX has the capability to carry out a thorough investigation, including witness-protection capability. The Mission's Witness Security Unit meets EU standards and can be upscaled, as necessary, to meet the demands of that investigation. It also has a proven track record of international legal cooperation with third States, both inside and outside the region. Finally, EULEX has the cooperation of the key stakeholders, having received assurances of full support and cooperation from Tirana and Pristina, and having already engaged closely with Senator Marty.

The United Nations has continued to play a crucial role in supporting reconciliation and cooperation. That has been highlighted in its work in support of missing persons and religious and cultural heritage. I would also like to underline the United Nations support, including through the United Nations Office for Project Services, for the census in northern Kosovo. An accurate census conducted throughout Kosovo is key to providing public services, now and in the future, to all communities living there. It is the citizens in the north who will suffer the most if the census there is not completed. The data needed to provide social, economic and health services will be lacking. The United Kingdom hopes that the census will proceed there this month, in accordance with the revised operational plan.

Finally, let me reiterate again the United Kingdom's commitment to work with all parties in support of a stable, prosperous and democratic Kosovo that enjoys genuine cooperation with all countries in the Western Balkans as they all move towards the EU.

Mrs. Vlotli (Brazil): I welcome His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, and thank him for his statement. I also thank Special Representative Lamberto Zannier for his briefing and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for his remarks.

Stability in the Balkans remains an important goal. We continue to believe that resolution 1244 (1999) offers an adequate framework for a negotiated settlement that can address tensions in the region. Brazil reiterates its support for the work carried out by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in implementing the Security Council mandate. UNMIK's presence remains essential for stability in Kosovo.

We welcome the launch of the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina and the willingness of both sides to find solutions that can have a positive impact on the daily lives of the population. We concur that the process of dialogue can pave the way for peace, security and stability in the region. This is important progress, which must be strengthened with the intensification of meetings and the support of UNMIK and regional organizations. We expect the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina to ultimately lead to the solution of the political differences between both parties.

It is encouraging that the security situation since mid-January has been relatively calm, as reported by the Secretary-General, despite underlying political tensions. Nevertheless, the situation in northern Kosovo is particularly delicate. All sides must exercise caution and restrain and avoid actions that may undermine the situation on the ground.

As we stated last February (see S/PV.6483), Brazil is concerned at the allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. The gravity of such allegations cannot be overlooked. A thorough, independent and credible investigation must be carried out. In this regard, it would be interesting to explore possible options that take into account the need to involve various jurisdictions and the importance of ensuring consistency with resolution 1244 (1999).

The Council should continue to keep political developments in Kosovo under close review and encourage the auspicious beginning of dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. We are confident that a fair and legitimate solution to the outstanding political issues in the region can be reached under the auspices of the Security Council, consistent with its authority and primary responsibility in matters pertaining to international peace and security.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (spoke in Russian): We would like to thank Mr. Zannier, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Kosovo, for introducing the report (S/2011/281) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). We welcome the participation of Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, in today's meeting of the Security Council, and we share his views.

We listened closely to the statement by Mr. Hoxhaj. However, we must direct a comment at the Secretariat. As Mr. Hoxhaj was speaking in his personal capacity, the text of his speech should not have been distributed as it was. We are firmly convinced that this mistake by the Secretariat will not be repeated.

Russia's position on non-recognition of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence remains unchanged. We support the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Republic of Serbia. We also believe that resolution 1244 (1999) remains fully in force and is binding for all as the international legal basis for Kosovo's settlement, as well as for ensuring security in the province. Moreover, the Security Council should continue to play a leading role in addressing the issue of Kosovo.

We welcome the resumption of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. We are convinced that a viable solution to the Kosovo issue can be reached only through negotiations. We believe that it is necessary to have an official presence by representatives of the United Nations Mission in Kosovo at meetings held in the framework of the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, given the need for the Security Council to receive adequate information about the progress and the substance of the talks and for the purposes of the quarterly report of the Secretary-General. That need also stems from the agenda of the meetings themselves. As we know, participants in the talks discuss issues

directly related to UNMIK, such as Pristina's chairmanship this year of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA). In that regard, I would like to recall that UNMIK is the signatory of CEFTA for Kosovo.

We believe that the European Union, which is mediating the talks, must provide an appropriate place for the United Nations at the talks, especially given the possibility that the Organization may provide assistance. UNMIK should continue to provide maximum assistance for a settlement of the Kosovo issue, as well as to carry out its duties to ensure Kosovo's external representation in regional and international organizations and mechanisms.

We consider unacceptable the unilateral actions of Pristina and international presences in the north of Kosovo aimed at changing realities on the ground. In this context, we draw attention to the potentially explosive situation in the northern part of the province. There have been attempts to Albanicize local Kosovo police units and to extend the activities of Kosovo custom officers to the north. There is also the uncontrolled resettlement there of the Albanian population, which was not agreed with all interested parties. All of this will inevitably lead to an escalation of tension.

Of serious concern is the operation carried out in Zubin Potok on 15 February by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), with the support of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the Kosovo Albanian police, to detain — as they stated — local criminal elements. In fact, the purpose was to detain importers of oil products from Serbia who refused to pay taxes into the Kosovo Government coffers. In the eyes of the local population, this operation stood out as an act of intimidation. We believe that in this case the international presences to which I have referred acted as an instrument of the Kosovo Albanian authorities, bringing to the north of the province the rules and ways established by the authorities in Pristina. We call on EULEX and KFOR to observe the status neutrality stipulated by their mandate.

We share the concern of the Serb authorities and the Serbian Orthodox Church about the situation that developed in connection with the transfer by NATO forces to the Kosovo police of the responsibility for protecting the most significant Serbian cultural and religious heritage sites. We believe that these actions

could cause additional tension in Kosovo in the area of security, especially given that cases of theft and vandalism against Serb holy sites were once again documented during the reporting period.

The situation with regard to the return to Kosovo of internally displaced persons — including the Serbian population — continues to be unsatisfactory. There are many reasons for this situation, not the least of which is the fact that returnees do not have certainty about their own security.

On 19 April, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia sent a letter to the Secretary-General setting out the approaches of the Serbian side to the issue of carrying out an investigation in connection with the well-known report by Dick Marty about illegal trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. We support the proposal contained therein to establish, by decision of the Security Council, an international investigative mechanism accountable to the United Nations. It should be granted adequate resources to ensure the functioning of a reliable witness-protection programme. In carrying out its work, the mechanism should work closely with interested States, UNMIK and EULEX. Its progress and results must be reported to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. We are convinced that carrying out a detailed, de-politicized and independent investigation will be in the interests of establishing truth and reconciliation in the province.

We believe that arguments made today by Mr. Jeremić are more than convincing. We do not understand the aspirations of some colleagues in the Security Council to limit the investigation to EULEX, which has never done anything like that. The international community has, more than once, looked at these serious crimes; once we overlook them, we cannot do so a second time. We are convinced that we will revisit this issue in the Security Council in the near future.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I would like to join colleagues in welcoming to the Security Council Foreign Minister Jeremić of Serbia, the new Foreign Minister Hoxhaj of Kosovo and Special Representative Zannier. I would like to thank Mr. Zannier for his comprehensive briefing. We appreciate the contribution made by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and commend the dedication and service of his staff.

The reporting period has been marked by significant political events. Kosovo went through a difficult political period after the Constitutional Court ruled on the procedure for the election of the President. Germany notes with satisfaction that these difficulties have been successfully overcome by democratic means based on a dialogue between the ruling coalition and opposition parties. There is now an opportunity to shift attention to the important challenges facing Kosovo. Let me comment on three aspects contained in the report of the Special Representative.

First, Germany welcomes the launch of the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade, which aims at promoting cooperation, achieving progress on the path to the European Union and improving the lives of people in the region through practical arrangements. As facilitator of the dialogue, the European Union hosted the first three meetings in Brussels, which were conducted in a positive and constructive atmosphere. They showed that there is potential for reaching agreement between Pristina and Belgrade on much-needed arrangements in a number of areas, among which are a civil registry, cadastral data, telecommunications and electricity. This potential must be fully realized for the benefit of the people in the region. We call on both sides to continue the dialogue in good faith and produce tangible results as soon as possible.

Secondly, with regard to the security situation in Kosovo, Germany is pleased to note that the overall situation remained relatively calm during the reporting period. This also holds true for the situation in the north of Kosovo, where only one incident in the past three months was reported. This is encouraging. Nevertheless, challenges remain and we share the assessment of the Secretary-General that solutions to practical issues found through dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade will help to alleviate the persistent underlying tensions in the northern part of Kosovo. We echo the call made by the Secretary-General on communities in the north to avoid taking any unilateral action that could undermine the situation on the ground and exacerbate those tensions.

My third point concerns the report of the rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mr. Dick Marty, on alleged inhumane treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. Let me stress that Germany continues to take this report very seriously. A full

investigation is necessary of the allegations contained in the report of despicable crimes committed against Serbian nationals during and after the armed conflict in Kosovo. We have already stated that, in our view, there is no doubt that the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) has the capacities, competence and jurisdiction to carry out those investigations. EULEX has an independent and fully functional Witness Security Unit, which can be scaled up if necessary. EULEX has Germany's full support and confidence. As stated in annex I to the quarterly report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281), EULEX has opened a preliminary investigation and its prosecutors have met with Mr. Marty to discuss his findings. The Government of Kosovo is ready for full cooperation. EULEX has established good cooperation with the authorities in Belgrade and Tirana. EULEX prosecutors have already met twice with the general prosecutor of Albania on this matter.

Let me conclude by underlining that Germany will continue to promote Serbia's and Kosovo's joint and shared European future.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): I would like to welcome Foreign Minister Jeremić back to the Security Council. I would also like to welcome Foreign Minister Hoxhaj to the Council today and to congratulate him on assuming his new position. I also thank Special Representative Zannier for his briefing and for his service on behalf of the international community.

Let me begin by congratulating the people of Kosovo on the election of President Jahjaga, the first woman to hold Kosovo's presidency and the first female head of State in the Balkan region. Her election is historic and heartening.

I will focus on three key points today. First, Kosovo has once again demonstrated the resilience of its young, multi-ethnic democratic institutions, even in the face of political challenges. The new Kosovo Government was constituted shortly after our last Security Council meeting on this subject (see S/PV.6483). It has the most robust, top-level, multi-ethnic representation the country has ever known. We are hopeful that the new Government will refocus Kosovo's energies on political and economic reforms to improve citizens' lives and further integrate Kosovo into the international community. We also welcome the agreement between the governing coalition and leading

opposition parties that followed the 30 March Constitutional Court ruling, which led to a peaceful transition of power from President Pacolli to President Jahjaga. We look forward to working with her and the new Government as they complete the important electoral reforms that were central to that agreement.

Secondly, Kosovo's institutions deserve the strong support of the Council and all parties present today as they work to extend the rule of law throughout Kosovo, including the north. The European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) plays an important role in assisting Kosovo institutions develop a professional police force and judiciary, in line with European Union (EU) standards. NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) and EULEX continue to work with Kosovo border police to prepare Kosovo for full control of its southern border, and the Kosovo border police have assumed responsibility for additional controls along the Macedonia border. In recognition of the Kosovo police's professional standards, KFOR has continued to transfer responsibility for protecting Serbian Orthodox Church sites to them without incident.

The overall security situation in Kosovo has been relatively calm. We are encouraged by reports of increased engagement with Kosovo institutions by minority communities, including Kosovo Serbs. But we remain deeply concerned by the actions of the so-called parallel structures in northern Kosovo, which answer to the Government of Serbia. These parallel structures obstruct progress and freeze the unacceptable conditions in the north.

The international community, along with the Government of Kosovo, must ensure that Kosovo has a country-wide police and judicial system that serves and protects all communities and defends their members' rights to lead safe, secure and productive lives. We still witness threats of violence and acts of intimidation directed at ordinary citizens and at the Kosovo Government and international authorities. We have also witnessed the obstruction of the census in northern Kosovo and repeated efforts to block international assistance projects. All of these actions come at the expense of the people in the north, and none of these actions should be tolerated.

Thirdly, we welcome EULEX's decision to investigate the serious allegations in the report by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. EULEX has the jurisdiction and mandate to investigate

and prosecute the types of criminal activity alleged in the report. We welcome Kosovo and Albania pledges to cooperate fully with the EULEX investigation.

The United States, as a EULEX-participating State, supports the Mission's activities. We are evaluating how we can best support the investigation. EULEX has already begun a follow-on investigation to those conducted earlier by the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. As others have said, nothing in relation to the report's allegations would prevent EULEX from undertaking this task. Kosovo law and the EU joint action on EULEX explicitly provide for EULEX to investigate and prosecute serious crimes, and to do so independently.

Some assert that all investigations into war crimes in the ex-Yugoslav realm have taken place under Security Council auspices. That is incorrect. Many cases have been and still are being handled in domestic courts in the region, in Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

In conclusion, I hope we will all take heart from the great promise shown by this young country in its three years of independence. We have been particularly struck by the dynamic and engaged youth, who will forge so much of Kosovo's future — young men and women of all backgrounds who are working to deepen civil society, build up democratic institutions, expand economic opportunity and promote the rule of law.

The United States remains committed to a stable, prosperous, multi-ethnic and democratic Kosovo that is at peace with its neighbours. We continue to fully support the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. We hope that it will lead to practical solutions to the continuing challenges of daily life for the people of Kosovo.

Seventy-five countries have now recognized Kosovo. We call on all remaining countries to contribute to stability in the region by welcoming Kosovo into the international community through formal recognition.

Mr. Amleyeeforl (Nigeria): I join others in thanking His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Foreign Minister of Serbia, and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for their statements. I would also like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Lamberto

Zannier for his informative update on the situation in Kosovo.

Nigeria welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281) and the observation that the overall situation in Kosovo has remained relatively stable during the reporting period. We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) to foster cordial relations among all actors within the country and in the region. This remains vital to ensuring lasting peace, prosperity and stability in Kosovo. UNMIK therefore deserves the continued support of the Council and the international community.

Nigeria welcomes the ongoing European Union-facilitated talks aimed at regional development, enhancing cooperation among local actors and progress towards joining the European Union (EU). There is a need for the parties to remain engaged in the process and to show the flexibility, compromise and constructiveness needed to achieve results. We commend the European Union and UNMIK for their contributions and urge them to continue to offer their facilitation in support of the talks.

While the Secretary-General's report indicates that the situation in northern Kosovo is calm, the underlying tensions suggest that the situation remains fragile. Broad-based consultations aimed at promoting social change and reconciliation among the communities are needed as a matter of policy.

The Council can and should do more to help build confidence among the communities and consolidate peace and stability in the country and in the region. It is in this regard that we call on UNMIK to continue to play its pivotal role in facilitating inter-ethnic contacts and fostering cordial relations with international actors. We hope that the EU-facilitated talks will provide an opportunity to address more of the outstanding issues.

The low number of returns, forced returns and the fiscal and socio-economic limitations that impede the reintegration of returnees deserve serious and concerted action. We reiterate the importance of promoting voluntary returns and the viability of the conditions of return, such as access to public services, housing and property rights, and socio-economic activities. The law-enforcement authorities should also reinvigorate their efforts to curtail the harassment of, and attacks on, returnees. Such measures should go a

long way towards promoting safe returns as well as reconciliation and the long-term stability and development of Kosovo.

On the issue of investigations relating to the inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo, we remain convinced of the need to bring to justice those held accountable. A thorough international investigation is therefore required. However, in such an effort, the various jurisdictional issues involved in the matter should be taken into account. It is essential that the relevant national authorities, UNMIK and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) provide the necessary technical, organizational and logistical support to the investigation.

Nigeria appreciates the untiring efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his team in the promotion of peace and security in Kosovo and in the region. We would also like to note in this regard our satisfaction with the cooperation between the Mission, EULEX, the Kosovo Force, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as well as United Nations agencies, funds and programmes aimed at improving the lives of all Kosovars.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (spoke in French): My delegation would like at the outset to thank Minister Vuk Jeremić for his important statement. We welcome the presence at this meeting of Mr. Enver Hoxhaj, and we thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Zannier, for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281).

The report notes the positive evolution of the political and security situation since the elections. Unfortunately, this is at odds with the allegations of serious violations of human rights.

Gabon, while reiterating its commitment to respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, remains convinced that, as we emphasized during earlier debates, a lasting and peaceful resolution of the situation in Kosovo will require dialogue and consultation among all stakeholders. That is why we firmly believe that resolution 1244 (1999) represents the political and legal basis for a negotiated solution to the situation.

We welcome the developments in the political situation, including the resumption of direct dialogue

between the parties on 8 March in Brussels under the auspices of the European Union (EU). This augurs well for the continuation of talks, given the importance of the matters that were raised on that occasion, namely, the living conditions of the people living in Kosovo and technical subjects related to peace and stability in the region. My country urges the parties to continue to work in that direction and to maintain the political determination necessary to see the negotiations through. We welcome also the improvement in the security situation north of Kosovo despite continuing tensions on some fronts.

As the Council is aware, the reconciliation process in Kosovo always comes up against the failure to resolve three major issues, namely, missing persons, the return of refugees, and cultural and religious heritage. As those issues are of pivotal importance, my delegation urges the parties to continue, with United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) facilitation, to address them with a view to achieving a lasting, consensus-based solution.

The possibility of establishing a climate of confidence between the parties could be compromised by allegations of inhuman treatment of people and illicit trafficking in human organs in Kosovo. We urge the Council to spare no effort in determining the facts and identifying those responsible. Crimes of such gravity cannot remain unacknowledged or unpunished.

Hence we call on the Council to promote the establishment of an appropriate mechanism for the carrying out of an in-depth, impartial and independent inquiry, with the participation of UNMIK.

Lastly, we reaffirm our support for Mr. Zannier and the staff of UNMIK and for all other partners on the ground in the important work that they are doing within the context of resolution 1244 (1999).

Mr. Yang Tao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I wish to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Zannier, for his briefing. We welcome the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr. Jeremić, and also listened attentively to the statement made by Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

While at present the overall situation in Kosovo is calm, it remains complex and fragile. We are concerned in particular at the inter-communal tensions in Kosovo. China hopes that the parties concerned will

make joint efforts to maintain stability and avoid any acts that could cause tensions to escalate.

China respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Serbia. We have always believed that the situation in Kosovo has a bearing on peace, security and stability, not only in the Balkans but also in Europe as a whole. It is up to the parties themselves to find solutions that are acceptable to both sides within the framework of United Nations resolutions and through negotiations.

Since March 2011, there have been dialogues between Belgrade and Pristina. We welcome this development and hope that the two sides will maintain a constructive engagement aimed at reaching consensus on a wide range of issues. China appreciates the positive role that the European Union and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) have played in facilitating dialogue between the parties.

Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) remains valid and an important legal basis for a solution to the situation in Kosovo. China encourages UNMIK to continue its work, in keeping with the mandate given it by the Security Council, and to play a greater role in resolving the situation in Kosovo.

China is concerned at the issue of illegal trafficking in human organs, as mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281). No act in violation of international law and international humanitarian law can be condoned. China shares Serbia's legitimate concerns and supports the investigation into this matter by the United Nations.

Ms. Ziade (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank Mr. Zannier for his briefing. I welcome Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, and thank him for his statement. I also thank Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for his statement.

Allow me to make the following remarks. We express our support for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and welcome its efforts to promote security and stability and to facilitate dialogue and reconciliation in Kosovo and its participation in international and regional forums. We call on all parties to provide the support to necessary for UNMIK to carry out its mandate. We also welcome the ongoing coordination between UNMIK and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in

Kosovo within the status-neutral framework stipulated in resolution 1244 (1999).

We express our satisfaction over the continued relative calm of the security situation in Kosovo, although some incidents in the north have exacerbated tensions. It is therefore important for all parties to refrain from provocative acts and to maintain communication between the various communities. We also believe that UNMIK must continue to play a positive role in facilitating communication and coordination between the various communities.

We also welcome the launch of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, and commend the efforts of the European Union in that regard. We are encouraged by the fact that the dialogue is addressing a large number of significant practical issues, which will help to build confidence between the parties and pave the way for measures that will have a positive effect on the day-to-day lives of the people. In that regard, we welcome the positive role in support of the dialogue being played by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. We hope that it will promote reconciliation between the various communities of Kosovo.

We note the importance of fighting organized crime. A neutral and independent investigation must be undertaken into the allegations of inhuman treatment and illegal trafficking in human organs in Kosovo that took place in 1999. The investigation must be carried out without being politicized and on the basis of the principle of accountability in order to achieve justice for the families of the victims. Accountability must be upheld as a principal foundation and pillar of sustainable peace.

Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri (India): I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), Mr. Lamberto Zannier, for his comprehensive briefing on the situation in Kosovo and the activities of UNMIK. I also want to thank His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, for his statement outlining his country's perspective on the situation in Kosovo. We have also carefully listened to the statement of Mr. Enver Hoxhaj.

The Secretary-General's report on UNMIK for the quarter ending 15 April (S/2011/281) describes in detail the ground situation in Kosovo. We note with

satisfaction that UNMIK continues with its endeavour to provide transitional administration to Kosovo, as mandated by resolution 1244 (1999), with the active cooperation and support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Kosovo Force and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo.

We welcome the commencement of a dialogue process between Belgrade and Pristina, facilitated by the European Union in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/298 of 9 September 2010. We all know that from small beginnings come great things. India has always believed that the Kosovo issue should be resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties. We are happy that both sides have agreed to start discussing the topics that most impact the daily lives of the affected population. We hope that both sides will pursue serious dialogue until those immediate issues are resolved, and that they will eventually begin to deliberate on more complex political issues. We urge all parties to take no unilateral action that could undermine that reconciliation process. We appreciate UNMIK's contribution to facilitating this dialogue process, and feel that its continued engagement would be helpful.

We have also noted with satisfaction that UNMIK has facilitated cooperation between Belgrade and Pristina on the issue of missing persons through the Working Group on Missing Persons, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

While the overall security situation in Kosovo, especially in the northern part, has remained relatively calm, it is a matter of concern that underlying tension continues. Many untoward incidents of criminal assault, armed robbery, murder, shooting, damage of religious places and so on continue to be reported. We would appeal to the local authorities, especially the Kosovo Police, to be more vigilant and watchful.

The continued voluntary return of refugees recorded by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is heartening. We are concerned by reports of opposition by some receiving communities. It is noted that a population and housing census took place during the period covered by the report, except in northern Kosovo, where it will be conducted at a later date. It is hoped that the census

will appropriately reflect the plight of displaced persons and not legalize any ethnic cleansing.

We have also noted the Secretary-General's view that the Kosovo authorities remain fundamentally sceptical about UNMIK facilitation of their engagement in international and regional initiatives. We hope that they will not seek to undermine UNMIK's role, mandated by the Security Council, and will instead fully cooperate with UNMIK and other United Nations and European Union institutions.

We agree with the Secretary-General's view that there is a need for thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the allegations contained in the report of Council of Europe Special Rapporteur Dick Marty. All stakeholders should agree on the creation of a mechanism to carry out the follow-up investigation, which should be fully supported by national and international entities present in Kosovo.

In conclusion, let me reiterate India's consistent position that all issues concerning Kosovo should be resolved peacefully through consultation and dialogue between the concerned parties. Only thus can the aspirations of all the people be met on an enduring basis, and lasting peace and stability be established in the region. We applaud the role played by UNMIK in upholding the goals of the United Nations.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Like others, I wish to thank Special Representative Lamberto Zannier for his very comprehensive briefing to this Council, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Mr. Vuk Jeremić, and Mr. Enver Hoxhaj for their remarks.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2011/281) offers a factual and comprehensive analysis of the situation prevailing in Kosovo, of the progress made during the period under review and of the significant challenges that still lie ahead in terms of ensuring security, stability, economic development and respect for human rights. It clearly makes the case for the continued commitment of the international community in order to support the people and authorities of Kosovo in their efforts to overcome those challenges and build a modern democratic State.

In that sense, Portugal reiterates its appreciation and support for the work being done and wishes to thank and commend the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the Kosovo Force, the European Union Rule of Law

Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for the accomplishments achieved. We also wish to highlight the active engagement of UNMIK with the communities and authorities in Kosovo and with the Governments of Serbia and Albania in order to fulfil its mandate. That commitment and cooperation are essential for furthering our common aims in Kosovo, but they are also a very important element in guaranteeing peace and stability in the whole region and promoting cooperation in the Balkans.

Since our last meeting on UNMIK (see S/PV.6483), the nomination of a new President and Government have taken place in Kosovo. It is encouraging that the crisis around the presidential election and the appointment of Ms. Jahjaga took place within the applicable institutional framework and without disturbance. Another important development has been the beginning of the meetings of the Pristina-Belgrade dialogue, facilitated by the European Union (EU). A number of significant issues have been identified and discussed. I would, as an example, mention those pertaining to civil registry and cadastral information, as well as regional economic cooperation and the movement of goods and freedom of movement, as particular important ones. It is important that this dialogue proceeds on all outstanding issues, with the aim of producing results in the near future. We encourage the parties to engage actively in that sense.

Despite the fact that the overall security situation has remained relatively calm since the beginning of the year, it is obvious that more efforts must be made in order to fight and prevent organized crime, put an end to trafficking in drugs and human beings and stop all criminal incidents that target both Kosovars and members of the international community. We take good note that the Kosovo police conducted a number of successful operations aimed at putting a stop to some of these criminal activities. We encourage them to redouble their efforts in that area.

On the other hand, in the community, criminal acts and vandalism and theft affecting cultural and religious sites are still occurring. The situation in the north remains tense. Other elements that may trigger renewed tensions abound. We commend UNMIK's efforts and dedication to ensure peace and security, but those efforts will be to no avail without the full commitment of the people of Kosovo themselves to

engage fully and in good faith in a process leading to the settlement of their differences.

Let me also stress the importance of the ongoing cooperation between Kosovo authorities and EULEX with regard to the rule of law, namely, on access to justice, policing and investigation, criminal prosecution and compliance with international human rights standards in civil and criminal proceedings. Again, the task facing Kosovo's Administration is one of institution- and capacity-building. We commend and support the efforts made by the EU Special Representative in that context.

Concerning the report of Senator Dick Marty to the Council of Europe, I took note of the Secretary-General's reference in his report (S/2011/281) to the initiatives that UNMIK and EULEX have undertaken in that regard. I am encouraged by the declared intention of the Kosovar and Albanian authorities to cooperate fully in the investigations. In that context, I also call upon all other countries that are in a position to elucidate on these very serious accusations to come forward and help.

I also paid careful attention to what Minister Jeremić said to the Council, as well as to the contents of the Serbian concept paper that circulated previously defending an international investigation, as well as to the letter of the Secretary-General of 4 May. I wish to make two comments on this matter.

First, with regard to the nature of organ trafficking, this is a complex criminal activity that requires a sophisticated network and the complicity of a variety of different actors, and not only doctors and recipients. It has become a horrendous international traffic that often has to rely on the complicity of authorities in different countries. Nearly a year ago, the General Assembly adopted the Global Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons, which of course includes trafficking for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in organs.

Dick Marty's report further underlines the importance and reach of the Action Plan, which promotes the universal ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its trafficking protocol, while reinforcing State's national and regional commitments to prevent and combat such trafficking, as well as strengthening cooperation among States, international organizations and other stakeholders. All of these elements can be particularly

relevant when addressing not only Senator Marty's allegations but also the case referred to in annex I of the Secretary-General's report concerning the indictment of defendants in the so-called Medicus case charged with illegal kidney transplant. The EULEX report states that

"Kidneys were allegedly removed from impoverished individuals, recruited on false promises of payment that they never received, then transplanted to wealthy foreign patients." (S/2011/281, annex I, p. 16)

In all its horror, that sentence encapsulates the particularly heinous nature of this type of crime.

My second comment concerns the investigation of the alleged facts presented in the Council of Europe's report. Time and again, the Security Council has rightly denounced impunity and defended the assertion that the perpetrators of serious crimes and violations of human rights must be brought to justice. Impunity is not only intolerable in itself, it can also be an obstacle to peace and to a healthy and cooperative political environment, as so many cases illustrate. The allegations made by Senator Marty, if proven, will weigh lastingly on our collective memory and conscience. Their seriousness warrants a thorough, complete and independent investigation.

Portugal fully supports the role of EULEX in that context. We were happy to learn that investigations have started and we hope that they will allow for the full clarification of the allegations. Portugal also stands ready to work within the institutional framework of the European Union to better equip EULEX with the necessary capabilities to allow it to address the situation adequately and efficiently. But as I stated here last February, the seriousness and relevance of this issue demands that we follow it closely and keep an open mind on any future action that the full pursuit of the investigations may require.

That is why we view the letter of the Secretary-General offering the United Nations assistance with the independent investigation as an important element in this context, to which due consideration should be given if the evolution of the investigations presently being carried out so warrant.

Despite all the difficulties, the situation in Kosovo has evolved positively during the past three

months. We hope and trust to register new progress when we again meet to discuss UNMIK's next report.

In conclusion, allow me to once again underline the importance of the dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. High hopes and much room for progress and tangible results lie in those conversations. It is Portugal's strong belief that peace and security in the region require sustained commitment from all sides to democratic institutions, the rule of law, justice and human rights. Those will, in the future, prove to be the enduring mark of the cooperation of the international community in the Balkans.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): South Africa would like to thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Zannier for his briefing to the Security Council today. We wish to convey our support to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the work it has done in Kosovo over the years. We also welcome Mr. Vuk Jeremić, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, and we thank him for his statement. We also welcome Mr. Hoxhaj.

South Africa remains convinced that resolution 1244 (1999) continues to be the legal basis for the resolution of this crisis, and that it remains in force as mandated by the Council.

My delegation welcomes the report that direct dialogue, as mandated by the General Assembly and facilitated by the European Union, has started between Pristina and Belgrade, a process we fully support. We have noted that the meetings to date have focused on critical matters aimed at improving the lives of the people of Serbia and Kosovo. We welcome the fact that this process has taken place in a positive and constructive atmosphere. My delegation encourages the parties to continue their dialogue in that atmosphere, aimed at finding lasting solutions.

Moreover, we believe that this regular direct contact between the parties is an important confidence-building measure that will hopefully help the parties to address more difficult matters. Sustainable peace, stability and development in the region will be served by reconciliation between Belgrade and Pristina. We therefore encourage the parties to continue with this process of dialogue in good faith and to exert all efforts to achieve agreement in the spirit of compromise. We have noted that the Secretary-General has remarked on the cooperation between the European Union and the United Nations on this matter. We agree with his

assessment that continued reporting to the Security Council on the process of dialogue is essential.

On reconciliation, we are pleased with the continued progress made in the Working Group on Missing Persons, chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross. We encourage the parties to continue with those efforts. However, we are concerned by the lack of funding for the Reconstruction Implementation Commission, which is tasked with the reconstruction and preservation of religious and cultural heritage sites. The work of the Commission is an important factor in reconciliation efforts. Its work should continue beyond 2011.

We welcome the slight improvement in the situation in northern Kosovo, which is calm but tense. However, that improvement will not be served by the repeated efforts of Pristina to deploy Kosovo Police units without consultation with local communities, which have been construed as methods of intimidation. It is important that all sides consider their actions and focus their efforts on maintaining and building conditions for dialogue and reconciliation.

During the Council's debate on this issue in February (see S/PV.6483), we stated that the limited progress on reconciliation between the communities could be undone by the allegations of organ smuggling against several leading Kosovo personalities, as reflected in the so-called Marty report adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. It is important that a credible, thorough, impartial and independent inquiry into these allegations be conducted as quickly as possible. It is also essential that such an investigation have the ability to conduct investigations outside of Kosovo and have a strong witness protection programme.

In this regard, we have noted the statement by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo that it has the capacity, expertise and jurisdiction to handle the investigation and that it has assumed responsibility for it. Equally, we have noted the request by Serbia that the Security Council mandate an ad hoc mechanism under its authority to conduct this investigation. South Africa has taken note of the concept paper circulated by the Serbian Government in this regard (S/2011/256), and we will continue to study it carefully.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation would like to thank Special Representative

Lamberto Zannier for his work. We also thank the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for its work, including its promotion of closer relations among communities and of interreligious contact as a strategy for long-term security. I also thank Mr. Jeremić and Mr. Hoxhaj for their statements, and I congratulate Mr. Hoxhaj on his appointment.

Colombia sees the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade as an encouraging step towards finding lasting solutions to their joint issues, and we welcome the role of the Mission in facilitating interaction. We therefore welcome the progress on technical issues in bilateral talks held in Brussels, such as property law, telecommunications, regional trade and freedom of movement. In this context, we consider the Security Council's proactive support for the dialogue to be constructive, in the belief that such dialogue is the basis for any lasting resolution of the differences between Serbia and Kosovo.

We reiterate our concern about the complaints of inhuman treatment of persons and illicit trafficking in human organs, and we agree with those speakers who have affirmed that a thorough, impartial and independent investigation into the grave accusations is essential. In this context, we call for the investigation into the alleged crimes to begin as soon as possible. Likewise, we believe that if such investigations are to succeed, they must include an adequate witness protection programme and the cooperation of all parties involved.

The Secretary-General's report on UNMIK (S/2011/281) notes that, during the reporting period, a number of people, including public officeholders, were arrested by the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) for alleged war crimes. In such circumstances, my delegation believes it necessary to call for the cooperation of all parties involved and all the accused at all stages of inquiry, not only to bring investigations to a close and to punish the guilty, but also to strengthen legal institutions and respect for the rule of law.

We support a regional approach to addressing problems between the parties, and especially urge the involvement of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in reconciling Pristina and Belgrade. Colombia supports the work of the United Nations Interim Administration

Mission in Kosovo aimed at promoting a favourable political, social and economic atmosphere in that country, leading to peace and stability in the Balkans sufficient to hold peaceful and transparent presidential elections in the fall of 2012.

The President (spoke in French): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kosovo for their presence and their statements. I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and welcome the work that he and the staff of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo are carrying out in Kosovo.

I will highlight three points.

First, a special effort should be made to strengthen institutions and the fight against corruption and organized crime. As recalled by Mr. Zannier, Kosovo has a new Government that must face these challenges, and we must help them. That is why France is working alongside Kosovo and the other States of the region to bring them closer to European standards, particularly in the area of the rule of law. We express our full support for the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), which is doing outstanding work.

Secondly, dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo, under the auspices of the European Union, is of crucial importance. Several meetings have already been held and concrete subjects have been discussed. We hope that those discussions, aside from their potential benefits for the population's daily life, will build confidence between the parties. It is up to the two States to show a spirit of compromise and creativity. The United Nations is informed on a regular basis and will be invited to participate when necessary.

Lastly, reconciliation and justice go hand in hand. That is the logic of the European project. In that light, we take very seriously the allegations contained in the report of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, submitted in late 2010. They should be the subject of a methodical and dispassionate investigation. EULEX opened a preliminary investigation at the end of January to shed some light on the allegations. The investigating team held several meetings outside of Kosovo, in Albania and in Serbia. The Albanian authorities committed to providing their cooperation.

EULEX has an operational team that is dedicated to witness protection, respects European standards and may be reinforced. An international, impartial investigation is thus under way. We call on all States concerned to cooperate with EULEX. France will continue to support the process of rapprochement for Kosovo and entire Western Balkans with Europe.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

I give the floor to Mr. Jeremić for a further statement.

Mr. Jeremić (Serbia): I would just like to make a brief comment on some of the statements made today.

On the subject of the Security Council giving mandates to investigate war crimes in the Balkans, I would like to reiterate that all of the war crimes that have been investigated were investigated under the auspices of the Security Council, and transferred to national courts of States Members of the United Nations only after agreement between those Member States and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, which was established by the Security Council.

As we all know, Kosovo is not and will not become a State Member of the United Nations. All major crimes committed by major officials and wartime commanders in Yugoslavia were investigated under the auspices of the Security Council and with the requirement that those who conducted the investigations report back to the Security Council on their work. I fail to understand the fervour of the opposition to the Security Council's mandating and receiving a report on the findings of such investigations, unless there is something to be hidden from this Council.

According to Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the European Law Enforcement Agency and other international organizations, some of which I quoted in my statement earlier today, Kosovo is at the bottom of lists when it comes to human rights and security, contrary to Mr. Hoxhaj's claims, in rebuttal to my statement, that it is a young, dynamic, developing democracy.

If we are to talk about multi-ethnicity, inclusion and tolerance in Kosovo, I would just like to draw the Council's attention to the following numbers. There are more people sitting around this table than there are

Serbs left in Pristina, out of the total pre-war population of 40,000. In Prizren, the ancient capital of Serbia, today there are 18 Serbs out of the pre-1999 population of 10,000. In Gnjilane today, 100 remain out of 15,000. In Urosevac, there is one Kosovo Serb, and in Suva Reka, zero.

More than 205,000 people have been expelled from Kosovo since 1999, according to the numbers of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Less than 15,000 have returned in a decade, less than 300 since the unilateral declaration of independence, and only 47 this year. So much for multi-ethnicity and inclusion in Kosovo.

The President (spoke in French): I give the floor to Mr. Hoxhaj for a further statement.

Mr. Hoxhaj: Let me be brief with my remarks, without taking a lot of the Council's time.

Let me be clear that the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is very much interested in cooperating fully with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). We think that EULEX has the professional capacity and enough people — more than 1,600 — with whom we can cooperate in order for all the allegations made by Mr. Marty to be investigated. At the same time, it is very important to us that those allegations be investigated as soon as possible, as our country needs to have clarity on this issue.

Secondly, I would like to inform the Council — and here I can speak from my own experience — that during the Vienna talks of 2005-2007, we were able to develop, in the Ahtisaari plan, the best provisions and mechanisms for the protection of cultural heritage. That cultural heritage has been protected for all time by the people living there — Albanians, Serbs, Turks, Bosniaks and other communities — and it will always be protected.

At the same time, I would like to inform the Council that the Ahtisaari plan today has been more than 80 per cent implemented. Pursuant to the Ahtisaari plan, new municipalities have been created that are providing Kosovar Serbs with the best way to accommodate their own interests and priorities. Perhaps the reason that Mr. Jeremić described the situation as he did in his feedback is because he has never visited the country, and he is describes a situation that does not exist and that never existed.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.



Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

Provisional

6535th meeting

Friday, 13 May 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Araud	(France)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ms. Čolaković
	Brazil	Mrs. Viotti
	China	Mr. Tian Lin
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Crowley
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Sheard
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 May 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/297)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.



The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Letter dated 11 May 2011 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2011/297)

The President (spoke in French): Unless I hear any objection, under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure I invite the representative of Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2011/299, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by France and Lebanon.

I wish to also draw the attention of Council members to documents S/2011/297 and S/2011/295, containing letters from the Secretary-General dated 11 May 2011 and 9 May 2011, respectively.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it.

I shall first call on members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): The United States will support the draft resolution that is before us, but we would like to highlight an important point. The aviation assets on loan to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) will be returned to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) no later than 30 June, pursuant to the draft resolution, in order to avoid destabilizing Liberia. We applaud the efforts of UNMIL's peacekeepers to continue to fulfil their duties, despite having fewer assets — a sacrifice they generously made, and which we all deemed necessary, to assist UNOCI in a time of need.

Now, as Côte d'Ivoire begins to emerge from its crisis, we must not lose focus on Liberia. As Liberia enters its electoral season, with a referendum in August and a presidential election this fall, UNMIL must be fully equipped. We, as a Council, decided that UNMIL

required specific assets to fulfil its mandate, and we must honour our commitment to ensuring that it has the tools on hand to do its job.

The United States has promised to support clear, credible and achievable mandates that are fully resourced and equipped. We must not jeopardize Liberia's fragile peace even as we continue to work to consolidate the progress that we have seen of late in Côte d'Ivoire. This will be the last extension of the loan of UNMIL's assets that the United States will support, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The President (spoke in French): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

As the Secretary-General recalls in his most recent letters to the Security Council, the Council's priority task is to stabilize Côte d'Ivoire. Reinforcements to Côte d'Ivoire of military helicopters attached to the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) play an essential role in this. The main threats of subregional destabilization are now in Côte d'Ivoire. It is not the Council's job to interfere in the management of logistical peacekeeping assets by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Council has always supported UNMIL, which should continue to enjoy the resources it needs in the context of the democratic transition that began four years ago following the end of a 10-year crisis. In that spirit, on 15 June the Security Council must seize the opportunity and modalities for cooperation between UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

I resume my functions as President of the Council.

I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Colombia, France, Gabon, Germany, India, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The President (spoke in French): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1981 (2011).

I call on the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bamba (Côte d'Ivoire) (spoke in French): Like all States represented here, Côte d'Ivoire welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1981 (2001). My delegation stresses that Côte d'Ivoire is in transition and gradually emerging from the recent crisis. The security situation remains volatile, particularly in the western part of the country, and must be strengthened. We call on the Security Council to act

pragmatically and flexibly in allocating resources, particularly military.

The President (spoke in French): The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.



Security Council

Sixty-sixth year

6536th meeting

Monday, 16 May 2011, 10 a.m.

New York

Provisional

President:	Mr. Araud/Mr. Briens	(France)
Members:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Barbalic
	Brazil	Mr. Fernandes
	China	Mr. Yang Tao
	Colombia	Mr. Osorio
	Gabon	Mr. Messone
	Germany	Mr. Wittig
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Lebanon	Mr. Salam
	Nigeria	Mr. Onemola
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

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11-33901 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Briefings by Chairmen of subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

The President (*spoke in French*): Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Cuba, Costa Rica, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Morocco, Pakistan, Spain, Switzerland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Pedro Serrano, Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

At the outset, Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri will make a joint statement on behalf of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). Following this joint statement, the Council will hear briefings by the Chairs of those three Committees.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Puri.

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): On behalf of the Chairmen of the three subsidiary bodies of the Security Council established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) dealing with the issue of terrorism, I have the honour to update the Security Council on the continued cooperation between the three Committees and their groups of experts. Taking account of the fact that the full statement of my briefing has been distributed to members of the Council, I shall deliver a summarized version.

The three Committees continue to attach great importance to the coordination and cooperation between their respective groups of experts, the Executive Directorate (CTED) of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Monitoring Team of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and the Group of Experts the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004);

welcome their continued efforts to engage in joint outreach activities, exchange of information and joint meetings; and encourage the three groups to further enhance their cooperation.

The three expert groups continue to implement the common strategy on dealing with non- or late-reporting States through exchange of information and joint visits, when appropriate, and in assisting Member States in submitting their responses to the three Committees on their implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The three expert groups continue to participate in platforms of common interest, such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Pacific Islands Forum and the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money laundering in West Africa. Also, both CTED and the Monitoring Team are observers at the Eastern and South African Anti-Money Laundering Group.

CTITF continues to provide a useful framework within which the three groups of experts can continue to coordinate their activities and to share information, particularly on technical assistance. The groups of expert contribute to the work of several CTITF working groups, and the Monitoring Team and CTED have assumed leading roles in some of these groups. The three groups of experts also participate in the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism initiative.

Exchange of information is carried out on a regular basis and through joint work conducted by two or more groups when participating in the same event, such as the recent CTED workshop on challenges to border control in the Maghreb and the Sahel, in which the Monitoring Team participated. Similarly, the Monitoring Team joined the Counter-Terrorism Committee's recent special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations, held at the headquarters of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, on measures related to the prevention of terrorism. Both CTED and the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee also participated at the ninth meeting of national focal points of contact of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, organized by the Organization of American States in March 2011.

The three groups of experts continue to hold regular meetings in preparation for visits, workshops and other joint activities related to specific States, regions or themes. The Counter-Terrorism Committee also regularly invites the other two groups of experts, CTITF and other relevant United Nations entities to meetings with international and regional organizations and to its thematic briefings in the framework of its official meetings.

Another emerging area of cooperation is for one of the three groups to represent another group at certain events. For example, the Monitoring Team represented CTED at the FATF meeting in Cape Town in November 2010, and CTED represented the Monitoring Team during its participation in the meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in Auckland, New Zealand, which was co-chaired by New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Forum secretariat this month. In general, during their participation in these various events, the groups of experts continue to explain to participants the respective activities and mandates of the three Committees, as well as the content and purpose of the Global Strategy.

As mentioned in the previous joint statement (see S/PV.6424), the co-location of the three groups of experts would greatly contribute to enhanced cooperation and information exchange among them. We therefore appreciate the response of the Secretariat that it will continue exploring all options with a view towards co-locating the groups at the earliest possible opportunity, notwithstanding the challenges associated with such co-location.

The three subsidiary bodies and their respective groups of experts will continue to cooperate and to coordinate their work, within their respective mandates, with a view to ensuring an effective and efficient approach to counter-terrorism. The three Committees look forward to receiving further guidance from the Council on areas of common interest and to further strengthening their joint activities.

The President (spoke in French): I now call on Ambassador Puri to speak in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001).

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri (India): I had the honour to assume the chairmanship of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution

1373 (2001) at the beginning of this year. I would like to thank my predecessor, Ambassador Apakan of Turkey, for his excellent work in steering the Committee in 2010. It gives me great pleasure today to brief the Council on the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) since the last briefing in November 2010 (see S/PV.6424).

Terrorism is a global scourge and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. The United Nations strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever, and for whatever purposes. It is an attack on human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments.

The CTC, in accordance with its mandate, continues to work actively in advancing the global fight against terrorism. The Committee in its work has been guided by relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010), and continues to play a critical role in promoting and facilitating their implementation.

The Security Council presidential statement adopted on 2 May (S/PRST/2011/9) in the aftermath of the death of Osama bin Laden stresses the need for the full implementation of its resolutions on terrorism, as well as other applicable international counter-terrorism instruments. It also calls on all States to work together to bring to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of terrorist attacks, while ensuring that measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

Important tools in the Committee's work include preliminary implementation assessments, visits to Member States, facilitating the provision of technical assistance, enhancing cooperation and coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations and the identification and promotion of international best practices, codes and standards. The Committee, through the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), is also making use of alternative technologies, including video conferencing, to enhance its dialogue with Member States.

The Committee continues to organize and participate in discussions and workshops on thematic

and regional issues. The major issues considered by the Committee include the control of cash couriers, the abuse of the non-profit sector for terrorist financing and the application of good practices for the implementation and assessment of resolution 1624 (2005). Important workshops organized during this period include the launch of CTED's global initiative in London, from 18 to 20 January, to prevent the abuse of the non-profit sector for terrorist financing, within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force working group on tackling the financing of terrorism and the workshop on challenges to effective border control in the Sahel and the Maghreb region, which was organized in close cooperation with the International Organization for Migration and held in Nouakchott from 4 to 6 April.

The Committee is also focusing on regional specific discussions on issues identified in the 2009 survey on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) by Member States (S/2009/620, annex). A regional discussion on Central Asia was held earlier this month. In addition, the Committee and CTED continue to enhance their ongoing dialogue with Member States, donors and beneficiaries on the facilitation of technical assistance for capacity-building.

The Committee has adopted its work programme this year on an annual basis, which will be helpful in further streamlining the functioning of the Committee. Earlier, the Committee had been formulating its work programme on a biannual basis. In pursuance of resolution 1963 (2010), CTED is working towards providing, by 30 June, an updated global implementation survey on resolution 1373 (2001), as well as a global implementation survey on resolution 1624 (2005) by 31 December. The Committee has also adopted a plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005).

As part of enhancing its interaction with international and regional organizations and United Nations entities, the Committee heard briefings on counter-terrorism in February by Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, Secretary General of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Mr. Alexey Kuzyura, Chairperson of the Working Group of the Meeting of Heads of Special Services of the Russian Federation.

Furthermore, of particular significance was the CTC's special meeting with international regional and subregional organizations, in collaboration with the Council of Europe, on the prevention of terrorism, held at Strasbourg from 19 to 21 April. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Committee, CTED and various international, regional and subregional organizations to hold open and in-depth discussions about the preventive aspects of resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The special meeting focused on three main areas, namely, prevention policies, comprehensive and integrated strategies and the role of law enforcement in preventing terrorism. Experts from civil society organizations also actively participated in the event. The Committee appreciates the close cooperation and generous support from the Council of Europe in planning and hosting this event. While the Committee and CTED will follow up on this important meeting, the Chair's summary is in the process of being circulated as a document of the Security Council.

This year marks an important milestone in global counter-terrorism efforts, as we approach the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee will organize a special meeting, open to the wider membership and other relevant stakeholders, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the resolution and the establishment of the Committee.

Other major upcoming events include a workshop in Islamabad for members of Pakistan's Parliament on strengthening the oversight role of Parliament in the implementation of anti-money-laundering and combating the financing of terrorism laws, the fourth regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism, to be held in Thimphu, and a workshop in Belgrade for countries from South-East Europe on the law enforcement aspects of preventing the financing of terrorism.

I attach high priority to enhancing transparency, public outreach and the strengthening of cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. Besides participating in the CTC's special meeting at Strasbourg last month, I also participated in the meeting of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism of the Organization of American States held in Washington, D.C., in March.

In conclusion, the Committee will continue to play a critical role in the global fight against terrorism. The Committee will try to do so in a more strategic and transparent manner so that it can more effectively contribute to the global counterterrorism efforts within its mandate. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of CTED, and his team for their excellent work. I also wish to thank the Secretariat for its continuous support.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Ambassador Wittig, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated persons and entities.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): I had the honour to assume the chairmanship of the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee in January. In today's briefing, I would like to give an overview of the Committee's activities and achievements since the last briefing in November (see S/PV.6424). In addition, I would like to offer comments on the future work of the Committee from the Chairman's point of view.

At the outset, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my predecessor, Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting of Austria, and his team for their excellent work in steering the Committee in 2009 and 2010. Under Austria's able leadership, the Committee concluded successfully the first comprehensive review of the consolidated list. Today, I am pleased to report that the Committee, building on those efforts, has approved the most comprehensive set of updates to the consolidated list and the largest group of narrative summaries of reasons for listing in its history.

Specifically, the Committee has just agreed to 78 list amendments and to making publicly available almost 200 additional summaries of reasons for listing. The additional narrative summaries will further facilitate the implementation of the sanctions. They mark an important step towards closing an information gap and further enhancing fair and clear procedures. However, in resolution 1904 (2009), the Council clearly flagged that further efforts to that end were required. Let me now focus on three important aspects of the Committee's work.

First, the Council directed the Committee to continue to conduct reviews on a regular basis. The Committee, supported by the relevant Member States, the Monitoring Team and the Secretariat, is working

hard to deliver. The review of 48 individuals reported to be deceased is currently under way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Member States for their cooperation and their efforts in submitting to the Committee any relevant information in the context of that review. The Committee aims to conclude the review by the end of May, before conducting other reviews as requested by the Council in resolution 1904 (2009). In addition, the Committee decided to review listed entries that are reported to have ceased to exist and agreed on a paper outlining the modalities of that specialized review.

Secondly, through resolution 1904 (2009), the Council established the Office of the Ombudsperson. As of today, the Ombudsperson, Judge Kimberly Prost, has received 10 requests for de-listing. The Ombudsperson submitted her first comprehensive report on a specific de-listing request to the Committee in February, as well as two further comprehensive reports on two additional de-listing cases in April. The Committee is currently considering these de-listing requests and has been discussing with the Ombudsperson her observations, including the methodology and standards applied in her reviews of the requests. The Committee will conclude its considerations according to resolution 1904 (2009) and the relevant guidelines. The Committee views the assistance of the Ombudsperson as valuable and helpful in the process of reaching well-founded decisions. The Committee is currently considering options in this regard.

Thirdly, resolution 1904 (2009) encourages members of the Committee to provide reasons for objecting to de-listing requests. As Chair, I am insisting that all Committee members do so in a timely manner. In that connection, I am pleased to note that the Committee has been able to reach a consensus on the way and the form in which reasons for the Committee's decision could be communicated to relevant stakeholders on a case-by-case basis.

Here I should like to draw the Council's attention to changes and challenges as I see them and to share the views of the Chair of the Committee.

The 1267 regime was established in 1999, more than 11 years ago, in response to attacks planned by Osama Bin Laden and perpetrated by Al-Qaida. As times change, the threats posed by international terrorism are evolving. I should like here to make some

brief comments, in my personal capacity but informed by my experience as Chair of the Committee, on current changes and future challenges.

First, the death of Osama Bin Laden constitutes clearly an important landmark and a turning point. However, it is neither the end of Al-Qaida nor the end of terrorism. The Committee will duly assess the implications which recent events may have on the nature of the threat posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban, and on the future work of the Committee. The Monitoring Team will have to monitor closely current and future developments in that regard. It is clear, however, that rigorous implementation of the sanctions measures remains essential, since various groups associated with Al-Qaida remain active around the world, constituting a continued threat to international peace and security. At the same time, the Committee, supported by the Monitoring Team, should consider how best it can play its part in further marginalizing Al-Qaida and how it can ensure that the 1267 list continues to fully and adequately reflect the evolving threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated networks.

Secondly, regarding Afghanistan, the Committee has discussed the possible implications that political dialogue in Afghanistan may have on the work of the Committee and the future design of the regime. The Monitoring Team, in its recommendations paper, has provided several options for developing the 1267 regime further according to the perceived needs related to political dialogue in Afghanistan. It is the view of the Chair that the Committee and the 1267 regime as a whole must be prepared to play a facilitating and supporting role in a political dialogue and not become a stumbling block in terms of peace and security in the region. The Committee has been proactive in seeking and taking into account the views of the Afghan Government in the process of listing and de-listing Afghan Taliban. The Committee will consider a draft checklist of necessary supporting documentation for de-listing requests. However, taking into account the dynamics of political processes, it is the view of the Chair that the design of the regime may have to be further developed.

As Chair, I recommend that the Council carefully review and calibrate the criteria for the listing and de-listing of Afghan Taliban, reflecting in particular internationally agreed criteria in the reconciliation processes. The Council may wish to consider options for granting an even more visible role to the Afghan

Government in this context, with a view to promoting the transition process and the principle of Afghan ownership.

Finally, as Chair I am pleased to note that the need for continued reforms as regards fair and clear procedures remains high on the agenda of the members of the Committee. At the same time, I have to note that although many of the substantial reforms set out in resolution 1904 (2009) are currently being implemented, they still represent a work in progress, and the effects of this comprehensive reform agenda cannot yet be evaluated. This applies first and foremost to the most ambitious reform step set out in resolution 1904 (2009): the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson. I have noted that all members of the Committee are committed to making this a meaningful and credible process. This, however, does not exclude well-founded disagreements on particular cases. As Chair, I am confident that the Ombudsperson process, in its current form, can already deliver tangible improvements as regards fair and clear procedures, in particular the right to be heard.

In compliance with the provisions of resolution 1904 (2009), the Ombudsperson's findings are based on a thorough and conclusive examination of each de-listing request. At this stage, it is already clear that the political will of all Council members to promote fair and clear procedures has added weight and rigour to the Ombudsperson process. The observations, even though formally not binding in nature, are seriously considered and taken into account before a decision is taken on any de-listing request presented through the Office of the Ombudsperson. At the same time, as Chair of the Committee I am committed to continuing to assist in trying to build consensus on further enhancing fair and clear procedures as well as the role of the Ombudsperson.

This concludes my statement on the Chair's personal views.

The President (spoke in French): I thank Mr. Wittig for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Ambassador Baso Sangqu, Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004).

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): Since January I have had the honour of assuming the chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540. I thank

Ambassador Heller of Mexico for his leadership of the Committee in 2010.

In addition to the information just presented in the joint report, I am very pleased to summarize the main developments in the work of the 1540 Committee since the last joint briefing, on 15 November 2010.

The Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1977 (2011) on 20 April 2011. The resolution reaffirms resolution 1540 (2004), which calls on all States to implement appropriate and effective measures to address the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Through resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council acknowledges the progress made by States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004). The Council further notes that the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) by all States is a long-term commitment and task that will require continuous efforts at the national, regional and international levels. The new resolution extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a period of 10 years, which will enhance the Committee's ability to support the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and to assist States in their efforts, in particular by enabling the Committee to plan its activities over a longer period.

The new resolution also provides for two comprehensive reviews, one after five years and one before the end of the mandate. These reviews will provide the Committee with important opportunities for assessment and to engage in an in-depth dialogue with Member States on issues related to the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

The mandate contained in resolution 1977 (2011) provides the 1540 Committee with a sound and efficient basis for its work over the next decade. The resolution mandates the Committee to continue to strengthen its role to facilitate the provision of technical assistance and to enhance its cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations. The Committee is also mandated to continue to refine its outreach efforts and to continue to institute transparency measures, including through regular open meetings with Member States.

The resolution further urges the Committee to continue to engage actively with States to promote the sharing of experience, lessons learned and effective

practices in the areas covered by resolution 1540 (2004) and to dialogue with States on implementation, including through visits to States at their invitation. The resolution also mandates the Committee to conduct annual reviews of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) in order to guide its activities and, on that basis, to include specific priorities in its annual programme of work, as necessary.

Taking note of the 2009 comprehensive review and building on the Committee's successive programmes of work, the 1540 Committee conducted the following activities since its previous briefing last November (see S/PV.6424).

During the last six months, the Committee received first reports on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), and additional information from five Member States. Using this and other information, the Committee reviewed and approved 192 matrices before the end of 2010. The Committee therefore continues to encourage States to provide updated information on their implementation efforts.

The Committee continues to work on assistance requests and on possible next steps. It continues to elaborate policy guidelines to address a range of assistance issues and strengthen its clearing-house and match-making roles. Since the previous briefing, the Committee has continued to raise awareness about the revised procedures for processing assistance requests and to encourage States to provide any updated information regarding assistance requests submitted earlier or offers of assistance, as well as updated information on assistance points of contacts.

The Chairman of the 1540 Committee, coordinators of its Working Groups and experts participated in, inter alia, a meeting of 25 international governmental, regional and subregional organizations on cooperation in promoting the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) that was hosted by the Government of Austria and in events related to resolution 1540 (2004) organized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the World Customs Organization.

The 1540 Committee and its group of experts continued to participate in outreach to facilitate States' implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). In addition to those mentioned above, these events took place in

Central Asia, the Caucasus, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific Islands region. Thematically, a workshop in Japan addressed issues of export controls, one in the United Arab Emirates addressed trans-shipment, and one in France discussed proliferation financing.

With regard to transparency, the Committee posted on its website approximately 180 Committee-approved country matrices, as well as Information Notes on the outreach activities in which 1540 Committee members and experts have participated during recent years.

I appreciated the cooperative spirit among the Security Council members that led to adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), and I look forward to continuing working in that spirit in the implementation of the resolution.

Mr. Puri (India): I wish to make a few brief comments in my national capacity. I am not sure whether they are informed by my position as Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) or are purely national, but I suspect there is a great deal of fusion here.

To start with, as far as the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) is concerned, the death of Osama Bin Laden is a significant milestone in the global war against terrorism. However, it does not signify the end of Al-Qaida or of terrorism. Without the elimination of terrorists' safe havens and sanctuaries, there can be no end to the global war on terror.

For the security and stabilization of Afghanistan, it is important to isolate and root out the syndicate of terrorism that includes elements of Al-Qaida, the Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and other terrorist and extremist groups operating from within and outside Afghanistan's borders. Attempts to differentiate between Al-Qaida and the Taliban and other terrorist groups are fraught with difficulty, since those groups are operationally and ideologically fused.

We support measures to strengthen the review process of the listings in the Consolidated List of the 1267 Committee through the Office of the Ombudsperson, as per Security Council resolution 1904 (2009). At the same time, we are concerned that the process of listing and de-listing in the Consolidated List continues to be subjected to political will and

pressure — a scenario that we can ill afford in our united fight against terrorism.

India supports the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to reintegrate those individuals who abjure violence, give up armed struggle, do not have links with terrorist groups and are willing to abide by the values of democracy, pluralism and human rights as enshrined in the Afghan Constitution. At the same time, it is important that the red lines on the reintegration process as laid down at the London Conference and later reaffirmed at the Kabul Conference are not diluted. Otherwise, we risk Afghanistan sliding back to becoming a safe haven for terrorists and extremist groups.

On the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), India has expressed its unwavering commitment to global efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and their means of delivery. India recognizes that proliferation of WMDs and their means of delivery is a major challenge facing the international community. As a victim of terrorism for more than three decades, we are fully cognizant of the catastrophic dangers that transfers of WMDs to non-State actors and terrorists could entail. Clandestine proliferation networks have led to insecurity for all and must not be allowed to reappear. The international community must join hands to eliminate the risks relating to sensitive materials and technologies falling into the hands of terrorists and non-State actors.

The focus on non-State actors should in no way diminish State accountability in combating terrorism and dismantling its support infrastructure or in linkages with WMDs.

It is important to bear in mind that the successful implementation of counter-terrorism measures requires not only the fullest collective effort of the entire membership but also their fullest participation in processes that affect the collective security of all nations equally. Our collective endeavour should be to enhance coherence and synergy among different counter-terrorism structures that are dealing with the issue of terrorism within the United Nations.

Mr. Wittig (Germany): Germany aligns itself with the statement of the European Union (EU) to be delivered later.

With regard to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), Germany remains committed to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Germany supported the new resolution, 1977 (2011), as a sponsor because we are convinced that it contributes significantly to efforts for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

Resolution 1540 (2004) is an important non-proliferation tool. Importantly, in the new resolution the Council also stresses the importance of fulfilling commitments related to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. That is in line with our firmly held conviction that disarmament and non-proliferation are two sides of the same coin.

Germany is convinced that the creation of a group of experts will prove to be helpful in guaranteeing better coordination and proper implementation, thus further deepening cooperation between the experts and the Committee. In addition, Germany welcomes the clear focus on assistance being channelled through the Committee as a top priority in the Committee's future work.

Germany will remain committed to the future work of the 1540 Committee. Germany is ready to support the Committee by facilitating the Working Group on Monitoring and Implementation. The Working Group is of particular importance to us, as we believe that the full and effective implementation of the obligations contained in the four pertinent Council resolutions is key to achieving our common goal of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-State actors.

Germany will do its utmost to deliver a national implementation action plan, as encouraged in resolutions 1810 (2008) and 1977 (2011). We hope to contribute to setting positive examples by moving forward in that regard. We are currently giving consideration to organizing a meeting related to resolution 1540 (2004) in Germany next year, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The objective of the conference would be to engage in outreach with international, regional and subregional industry associations and groups. We believe that they can play an important role in complementing and supporting the work of States in

implementing resolution 1540 (2004) obligations. It goes without saying that we will seek close cooperation with the 1540 Committee in that regard.

Regarding the Counter-Terrorism Committee, we remain convinced that all measures to combat terrorism must be carried out in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards. That is indispensable to ensuring the efficiency and credibility of counter-terrorism measures.

Regarding the 1267 regime, I would like to add that Germany aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the group of like-minded States during today's debate. Since its establishment, the Office of the Ombudsperson has made valuable contributions to fair and clear procedures. Germany welcomes those efforts and commends the Ombudsperson for her work. My country is eager to continue supporting the Office of the Ombudsperson in a constructive manner with a view to strengthening the aspect of fair and clear procedures in the regime and to ensuring that the consolidated list remains a living document that adequately reflects the present terrorist threat.

Before concluding, let me stress three areas where Germany perceives the greatest need for improvements. First, in order to provide for an appropriate review mechanism, precise criteria for delisting should be conceived as a complement to the ones applied for listing.

Secondly, the preventive character of the sanctions should be enhanced by introducing a limitation to the duration of listings. Any extension of a listing should be based on solid information, as we normally require for new listings.

Finally, adverse effects caused by fragmentary and ambiguous listings must be avoided. Therefore, special attention should be given to the submission of precise and sufficient identifiers along with any application for listing.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): Allow me to add some comments in my national capacity on the work of the three Committees.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), South Africa remains firmly convinced that weapons of mass destruction do not guarantee security, but rather detract from it. As long as those weapons exist, humankind

will continue to face the threat of catastrophe. This conviction informs our firm commitment to the principles of the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and non-proliferation, both of which are key contributions to the system of collective security envisaged in the United Nations Charter.

South Africa welcomes the fact that the Council rallied behind resolution 1977 (2011), which seeks to establish a balance between the disarmament and non-proliferation aspects of weapons of mass destruction, and that the Council has reaffirmed the importance of fully complying with all relevant obligations. That balance, along with the improved language on peaceful purposes, provides an appropriate context for the 1540 (2004) framework.

We wish to thank the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated persons and entities, for his comprehensive briefing on the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime. We commend and encourage the Committee in its continued process of regularly reviewing the 1267 list to ensure that it remains up to date. We also applaud the Committee for its approval of the narrative summaries to improve transparency and effectiveness in the implementation of the sanctions regime.

As noted in the Chairman's briefing, while resolution 1904 (2009) has made significant procedural improvements to the listing and de-listing process, legal challenges to the procedural and substantive fairness of the sanctions regime remain. In our view, those legal challenges threaten the effectiveness of the regime. I am aware that measures to enhance procedural fairness and make the listing process more just have been considered by the 1267 Committee in the context of the report of the Monitoring Team. We would hope that those measures will be reflected in the draft resolution renewing the Committee's mandate.

With regard to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, terrorism remains one of the most of the dangerous and serious threats to the maintenance of international peace and security. The international community's efforts to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations must continue with renewed commitment, focus and resolve. It is therefore appropriate for the Security Council to be the implementing body of our collective efforts to counter and subsequently eradicate that phenomenon.

It is also important for the United Nations to remain at the forefront of that effort, especially as it will ensure that, in the process of fostering cooperation among the members of the international community to counter the scourge, such cooperation is carried out within the prescripts of international legal norms and standards to which we are obliged to adhere in accordance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

Very recent terrorist attacks are yet another grim reminder to all of us that we must stay the course in pursuing our stated objectives to counter and eventually eradicate terrorism. That work began with the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). Almost 10 years later, we note that, since the adoption of that resolution, the United Nations has made significant inroads in countering terrorism.

Finally, the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee facilitated numerous outreach activities, country briefings and regional seminars and workshops throughout the reporting period. Those initiatives have made positive contributions to engendering closer cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations; facilitated effective and integrated operations among the wider United Nations community and international and regional organizations; and fostered closer cooperation between and among Member States, the United Nations and international civil society. Most importantly, I would advocate technical assistance to States.

All of that not only bodes well for the United Nations in dispensing its specific mandates, but also adds value by making a material contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): I, too, wish to thank the Permanent Representatives of South Africa, India and Germany for their briefings on the activities of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

Nigeria appreciates the important role played by the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts in strengthening the global non-proliferation regime. In that regard, we commend Member States for their increased awareness of their obligations under that resolution. The increase in reports and the intensified efforts to promote cooperation between States and other stakeholders, as well as the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) last month, further strengthen

our collective resolve to achieve global security. More outreach activities, through regular workshops and consultations at the country and regional levels, will help to underpin those improvements. They will also help to address two critical challenges, namely, the limited implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), in particular by developing countries, and the lack of relevant legislative, regulatory and administrative structures to support implementation efforts.

Nigeria attaches great importance to the clearing house role of the Committee and expects that the revised assistance procedures will facilitate the prompt matching of offers and requests for assistance by States. By finding potential donors to support assistance requests, the Committee will help more States to benefit from relevant technical assistance and support.

Over the years, resolution 1373 (2001) has remained an indispensable tool in our collective efforts to curb the activities of terrorist groups. Resolution 1963 (2010), adopted last year, increases the focus on the robustness of our engagement on this issue.

Nigeria is satisfied with the role that the Counter-Terrorism Committee, established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), has played in guiding our efforts towards the full implementation of both resolutions. We welcome the Committee's adoption of a plan of action for the implementation of resolution 1624 (2005). In implementing this resolution, due cognizance should be taken of a country's and region's specific experiences and challenges. There is no doubt that the 1373 Committee's work will also benefit from outreach activities and sustained dialogue with States. Both activities will help affected States to develop relevant legislative, regulatory and administrative structures to support the implementation of all the resolutions.

Nigeria notes with satisfaction the depth of the cooperation that exists among the 1373 Committee, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and international, regional and subregional organizations. In this regard, we commend the Committee on the success of its special meeting in Strasbourg, France last month. We also note with satisfaction CTED's ongoing cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States on counter-terrorism initiatives in that subregion. I hope

that this cooperation will yield some concrete outcomes during the coming year.

Nigeria welcomes the changes to improve the programme of work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, including the regular updating of the Committee's website and implementation of recommendations of the last review process. The improved activities and reports submitted to the Committee are an indication of the remarkable and exhaustive work and the unequalled support of the Monitoring Team.

We commend Ms. Kimberly Prost, the Ombudsperson, for her valuable work and contribution to us in improving the procedures of the sanctions regime. We welcome the recent review of deceased persons, pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1904 (2009), to keep the Consolidated List updated and relevant.

The determination of de-listing requests for three names submitted through the Ombudsperson is a good example of the application of the reform in a fair and credible manner. These positive efforts should be further strengthened through the continuous improvement of the sanctions regime and by keeping the Consolidated Lists as accurate as possible. The need to ensure consistency with international standards of due process, international law and respect for human rights must be overriding in the Committee's work. It is therefore necessary to start considering further measures to strengthen resolution 1904 (2009).

Active engagement and cooperation between the three Security Council Committees remain imperative for strengthening the implementation of their respective mandates. In closing, we wish to commend Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their dynamic leadership and sterling contributions to the work of their respective Committees. We assure them of Nigeria's continued support in the discharge of their daunting responsibilities.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We express our gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa for their reports on the work of the Committees they respectively head.

The Russian Federation views the stepping up of efforts in the work of these Committees as an important precondition to enhancing the effectiveness of the Security Council's contribution to countering global terrorism, which remains one of the main threats to international peace and security. This fact is amply demonstrated by regular reports of new terrorist acts in various regions of the world. At the same time, there are many examples of successful actions by the participants in the counter-terrorist coalition of States. In the Russian Federation, a number of successful operations to neutralize underground groups in the northern Caucasus were carried out. Clearly, a key event was the elimination of Osama bin Laden.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities remains one of the main participants in the Council's activity in the counter-terrorist field.

We view as premature and unjustified the claims that the link between the Taliban and Al-Qaida are weakening and that flexible sanctions can serve to isolate the unreconciled Taliban and adherents of Al-Qaida. The idea that the Taliban might acquire a nationalistic character does not bear scrutiny. It is enough to recall that to date the Taliban have been backed by motley international groups, including foreign terrorist organizations. That is why it is virtually impossible to draw a distinction between the accomplices of Al-Qaida and purely Afghan Taliban. Here, we view the initiative to split the sanctions list into two, for Al-Qaida and for the Taliban, as unwarranted and fraught with the risk of loss of focus in the international antiterrorist track.

We back the policy of the Afghan leadership for national reconciliation and the reintegration into society of those members of illegal armed groups who are not tainted by crimes against the Afghan people, who have rejected violence and links with Al-Qaida and who recognize the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. As before, we believe that excluding former terrorists from the sanctions list is possible only on an individual basis. Here we considered groundless any proposals for the flexible or simplified de-listing of the Taliban, including the proposal for a sunset clause, which would lead to weakened control by the 1267 Committee over this process and to de facto automatic de-listing.

We back the Committee's efforts to ensure greater transparency in the work without prejudice to its effectiveness, and its efforts to update the sanctions list to bring it in line with the current terrorist threat.

We consider the work of the Ombudsperson useful and her present mandate as optimum.

We again urge States, pursuant to resolutions 1735 (2006) and 1904 (2009), to submit to the Committee requests to include on the sanctions list individuals and organizations linked to the Taliban and Al-Qaida, including those financing their terrorist activities from the proceeds of drug trafficking.

Resolution 1963 (2010), adopted last December, directs the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) to pay greater attention to issues of preventing and suppressing terrorism. We actively contributed to adopting that approach, which, in our view, secures wider support for and more effective implementation of the Security Council's antiterrorist decisions and organically fits into the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We attach special importance to enhancing efforts to counteract the radicalization of public opinion and the ideologies of terrorism, violent extremism and incitement to commit terrorist acts. To this end, the Russian Federation initiated the CTC's adoption of a plan of action to implement resolution 1624 (2005). It provides for broader dialogue with States on all aspects of the resolution and analysis of successful experiences to disseminate it more broadly and prepare a comprehensive report on the situation in this field. We expect effective implementation of the plan and will actively participate in that work.

To forge a robust network of antiterrorist cooperation under the aegis of the United Nations, it is important to bolster CTC contacts with international and regional organizations. In that context we welcome the outcome of the CTC's special meeting in Strasbourg with international, regional and subregional organizations on the topic of preventing terrorism. We endorse the intention of the Chair of the CTC to organize work on using the outcome of the special meeting to strengthen cooperation with regional organizations.

We note the close regular contacts of the CTC, the 1267 Committee and the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) with the conference

of the heads of special services, security organs and law enforcement agencies of partner States of the Russian Federation's Federal Security Service on terrorism. We welcome the assistance provided by the CTC through CTED. We fully back the participation of CTED pursuant to its existing mandate in the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force as well as its cooperation with the panels of experts of specialized Security Council committees.

Russia attaches great importance to the Security Council's adoption last month of resolution 1977 (2011), which reaffirms the very large-scale tasks of resolution 1540 (2004) and extends the mandate of the 1540 Committee for a further 10 years. We have used resolution 1540 (2004) as one of the main international instruments in preventing weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials from falling into the hands of non-State actors, first and foremost, terrorists. Resolution 1977 (2011) enshrines the leading role of the United Nations and the Security Council in these fields and creates conditions conducive to bolstering multilateral efforts in this area.

The 1540 Committee plays a key role in coordinating and enhancing the effectiveness of such efforts. We believe that the Committee and its Panel of Experts worked fruitfully during the reporting period to promote the further intensification of activities by the international community to counter proliferation-related risks and threats. We welcome the measures aimed at making the Committee's work more regular and systematic. It is important that these efforts continue.

We believe that the Committee should continue to devote priority attention to assisting States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004) and coordinating the activities of the international community to that end. We stand ready to continue to support such measures, including within the framework of our ongoing cooperation on issues related to resolution 1540 (2004) with participating States of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Russian Federation will continue to undertake focused efforts to fulfil the tasks set by the Security Council to forge a reliable system under the auspices of the United Nations to counter the black market in weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Barballé (Bosnia and Herzegovina): At the outset, I wish to join other speakers in expressing our

gratitude to the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa for their detailed briefings giving an account of their work during their first months chairing the respective Committees. Given the important place that these Committees have in the overall counterterrorism framework, we believe that the continued exchange of views through these regular briefings further contributes to the improvement of the Council's efforts in countering this global and ever-present challenge.

The face of terrorism changes every day, taking new forms, using new methods and manifesting itself in ways that compel us to continuously reconsider and re-evaluate the steps we take, the tools we use and the measures we deploy. Our efforts need to be multifaceted and comprehensive in order to adequately respond to the threats and dangers posed by terrorism. The demise of Osama bin Laden is considered as a critical development in that regard, and crucial in our joint efforts to fight terrorism.

We have on a number of occasions pointed out that the committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) has evolved into one of the most critical instruments in the fight against the threat posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban. We have thus far witnessed considerable improvements in the Committee's procedures, but its work is a continuous dynamic undertaking that requires our full attention and thorough and careful consideration of each new step, all in order to further strengthen the effectiveness, transparency and credibility of this sanctions regime. However, we are aware that there are still some concerns, and we believe that they will be adequately addressed in the coming period in order to strengthen the counterterrorism framework. We extend our full support to the Committee and its Chairman in further improving the sanctions regime established by resolution 1267 (1999).

In addition, I wish to emphasize that we attach great importance to the role of the Ombudsperson, which in our opinion can only significantly enhance and contribute to regime's fairness and transparency. However, it is very important to consider our next steps in order to realize the full potential of this institution.

The effective implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) is an essential prerequisite and key element of an unyielding and consistent counterterrorism framework. We are of the view that

the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), with the valuable support of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, remains one of the key elements of that framework. We therefore strongly support the work of the Committee to improve its efficiency and transparency. Thematic discussions and regional presentations are making the Committee more focused on challenges, deficiencies and difficulties in the implementation of the respective resolutions. We are pleased to see that the Chairman plans to move towards the Committee's continued engagement in these discussions and to make greater use of their outcomes and results.

Here, it is appropriate to mention very successful outcome of the recent CTC meeting at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg with international, regional and subregional organizations. Furthermore, regular briefings for Member States proved to be an indispensable tool in enhancing transparency and creating a forum for exchange of views and recommendations.

I would now like to address the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). Over the past seven years, resolution 1540 (2004) has demonstrated its great relevance among international instruments dealing with the issue of global non-proliferation and counter-terrorism. The 1540 Committee also proved to be an indispensable mechanism in extending support and assistance to Member States in building and further developing their capacity to face the threat of non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Bosnia and Herzegovina acknowledges and commends this work. We therefore voted in favour of resolution 1977 (2011) and the extension of the 1540 Committee's mandate for 10 years.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) cannot be fully and effectively implemented by one State alone. Such implementation is rather a long-term task that requires continuous efforts by Member States at the national, regional and international levels. The comprehensive implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is also a very complex and costly process. We therefore call upon Member States able to provide resources to extend their voluntary financial contributions to States in need of assistance to implement the resolution. No financial cost is too high if it helps prevent the potentially devastating

consequences of terrorist attacks with weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, we are thoroughly convinced that, under the able chairmanships of the Permanent Representatives of Germany, India and South Africa, the Committees will continue to pursue effective and stronger measures in the fight against terrorism. Bosnia and Herzegovina will, for its part, continue to fully support and contribute to the overall international efforts in countering terrorism, at both the national and international levels.

Mr. Cabral (Portugal): I thank Ambassadors Peter Wittig, Hardeep Singh Puri and Baso Sangqu for their comprehensive briefings and commend them for their work chairing their respective Committees.

Portugal aligns itself with the statement to be delivered later by the representative of the European Union.

Following the order of the briefings we have heard, let me turn first to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). We very much appreciate the high priority given by Ambassador Singh Puri to enhancing transparency and public outreach and further strengthening cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations. In this regard, we note in particular the outcome of the special meeting on the prevention of terrorism organized by the Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) last month in Strasbourg and hosted by the Council of Europe. The preventative aspects of the fight against terrorism reflected in resolution 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) and highlighted more recently in resolution 1963 (2010) should play, we believe, an indispensable role in the general framework of any comprehensive structural counter-terrorism strategy in order to actively address conditions conducive to radicalization, incitement and recruitment to terrorism. In this regard, we congratulate the CTC for the well designed set of thematic discussion panels, which were attended at a remarkably high level and fruitfully open to civil society experts.

We strongly believe that effective counter-terrorism measures and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are not only complementary but mutually reinforcing. In the light of that view, we encourage the Committee to continue to incorporate the consideration of human rights and rule of law issues in its country visits, preliminary

implementation assessment programmes and strategic activity plans.

Along with its work in assisting Member States on matters relating to the better implementation of relevant Council resolutions, the Committee should, in our view, continue, and even intensify, its regional and thematic approach with a view to developing regional capacities and networks, prompting multi-sector cooperation between States and organizations involved in dealing with challenges concerning terrorism threats to their region. In this regard, we welcome the initiatives by the Committee and CTED in South Asia and the Sahel, which, together with the Horn of Africa region, should be seen, in our opinion, as key priority areas for further international coordinated engagement in countering international terrorism.

With regard to the briefing on the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), I wish to thank Ambassador Wittig for sharing with us his useful and appropriate personal comments on the Committee's current challenges. We welcome the very relevant achievements and engagement of the Chair regarding the ongoing process of review of several categories of individuals and entities on the Committee's consolidated list, as well as with regard to their respective narrative summaries.

Following the adoptions of resolutions 1904 (2009) and 1267 (1999), the Committee has taken significant steps to promote transparency and improve the sanctions regime. The establishment of the Office of Ombudsperson to assist the Committee in de-listing requests was one significant landmark in this regard, opening an important door to listed individuals seeking the reappreciation of the measures that affect them and to reassess and readdress the situation. Portugal strongly supports Judge Kimberly Prost and commends her for her strong commitment to carrying out an important mandate.

The three comprehensive reports already submitted are a testimony to the serious work done so far by the Ombudsperson to collect all the relevant available information on the cases in question and to provide final observations with reasoned arguments that merit serious consideration by the Committee. In this regard, we also attach importance to a complete and well-founded response of the Committee to these observations.

In light of the upcoming draft resolution to renew resolution 1904 (2009), we believe that improving the Committee's procedures and working methods with a view to underlining the preventive and temporary nature of the sanctions regime with fair and clear procedures and enhanced transparency, in line with the thrust of the Monitoring Team's recommendations in its recent report, will only reinforce its impact, allowing for a stronger application of the sanctions regime by States, thus rendering it more effective in the framework of counter-terrorism. We look forward to this future exercise and to engaging fully in its negotiations.

In relation to the 1540 Committee, I wish to thank Ambassador Sangqu for his report and his leadership of the Committee during the few months leading to the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) last month, extending the mandate of the Committee for the next 10 years. We feel that a good compromise was reached. A decade will provide the necessary continuity to effectively monitor and assist efforts to prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the wrong hands, while maintaining a wide ownership of the process. With two comprehensive reviews per cycle, regular assessment is ensured, as well as the opportunity to adjust to new realities, challenges and threats.

We welcome in particular the fact that the resolution recognizes the significance of active and enhanced cooperation with States and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations to promote the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and best practices, as well as facilitating the provision of technical assistance in order to meet all the requests that might be presented to the Committee. Finally, we support the establishment of a group of experts, and we consider it essential to conduct a careful reflection in the near future on its expertise requirements and on a workable structure that will improve the Committee's ability to carry out its mandate.

Allow me to say one last word to express our appreciation for the close cooperation and coordination among the three counter-terrorism committees, aimed at facilitating the fulfilment of their mandates, improving efficiency and maximizing results. In this regard, we support the possible future co-location of the groups of experts. We also commend the committees' contributions within the framework of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force

(CTITF), and in this respect I wish to welcome the outreach efforts of the CTITF and commend it and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for their very useful briefings to the general membership on the activities pursued, in cooperation with States and regional organizations, in the context of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mrs. DiCarlo (United States of America): Allow me to join my colleagues in thanking the Chairmen for their briefings. Their dedicated leadership is central to the effectiveness of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related committees.

This meeting of the Council takes place at a critical juncture in our collective counter-terrorism efforts, with the death of Osama bin Laden earlier this month and the tenth anniversary of 11 September 2001 approaching. Bin Laden's death is the most significant blow yet to Al-Qaida's leadership, but it does not mark the end of Al-Qaida or of terrorism. We know that much work remains. Our partnerships have put unprecedented pressure on Al-Qaida. The United States will actively pursue its bilateral and multilateral counter-terrorism efforts, including efforts at the United Nations. For the United States, the United Nations is a key partner in the collective effort to combat and prevent terrorism.

I thank Ambassador Puri for his exceptional guidance of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) during his first five months as its Chairman. He has fostered greater efficiency in the work of the CTC and has worked closely with Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), to keep the general membership up to date on the Committee's activities through open meetings. The CTC and CTED made great strides in 2010. We applaud CTED's increased focus on developing innovative regional capacity-building workshops. Whether in the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, South-East Asia or South Asia, CTED has proven itself by bringing together local officials from the region to identify practical solutions to common counter-terrorism challenges.

We are particularly pleased with how resolution 1963 (2010) has helped align the Council's counter-terrorism framework with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We support the emphasis on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of

terrorism and on reminding all that respect for human rights and the rule of law is an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort. We also need to stress the critical role that local communities and civil society can play in our collective efforts to prevent and combat terrorism.

For over 11 years, the sanctions regime under resolution 1267 (1999) has been one of the United Nations most effective counter-terrorism tools and a symbol of international consensus against the ongoing threats posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban. The death of Osama bin Laden must not slow the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The Committee should update its sanctions list regularly to reflect the changing nature of the terrorist threat.

The United States welcomes the significant enhancements to the regime's listing and de-listing processes, most notably the review of every name on the consolidated list and the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson to ensure that de-listing procedures are fair and transparent. Over the past several months, we have worked very closely with the 1267 Ombudsperson. She has performed an important role in facilitating the flow of information among petitioners, Member States and the Committee, and her reports to the Committee have provided valuable information. We look forward to continuing to work with her to further enhance the integrity of the sanctions regime.

In June, the Council will review the 1267 regime and renew the mandates of the Monitoring Team and the Ombudsperson. We hope that other members will join us in considering a range of reforms to tailor the regime to the unique threats posed by Al-Qaida and the Taliban. In addition, we will continue to push for more robust implementation of existing sanctions by all Member States in order to make global sanctions more effective.

Let me thank Ambassador Wittig and his team for doing excellent work since he took over as Chairman in January. They, along with the Secretariat, have worked diligently to implement the latest round of reforms. I also thank the Monitoring Team for its important role.

The United States welcomes the Security Council's recent adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), which extends the mandate of the Committee

established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for 10 years. Let me thank Ambassador Sangqu, the Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their work that led to resolution 1977 (2011), as well as for their continuing efforts to fully implement resolution 1540 (2004).

The United States will continue its commitment to the work of the Committee under its new long-term mandate, and in that regard we are pleased to announce that we will make a contribution of \$3 million for the 1540 Committee's work. Resolution 1977 (2011) urges the Committee to actively engage in dialogue with States on implementing resolution 1540 (2004), and we are coordinating with the Group of Experts to conduct a country visit to the United States in September 2011. We look forward to the Committee's recommendations regarding working methods, modality and structure to maximize the Committee's efficiency and effectiveness, and we strongly support appointing a coordination and leadership position on the Group of Experts, which would help coordinate the overall activities of the Committee.

We support the efforts and overall direction of these three committees. Under the capable leadership of the Chairmen, the Council's counter-terrorism efforts will guide and reinforce Member States' actions to deter terrorism and proliferation efforts by non-State actors.

Mr. Messone (Gabon) (spoke in French): While the events of 2 May 2011 marked a very important step in the fight against terrorism, the most recent events in Morocco, which my country firmly condemns, remind us that terrorist groups are resolved to continue their criminal activities. The Security Council must therefore devote greater attention and vigilance to this issue as long as the terrorist threat remains a clear and present danger.

The Committees chaired by Ambassador Hardeep Singh Puri, Ambassador Peter Wittig and Ambassador Baso Sangqu show the resolve of the international community in combating this threat. On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank them for their briefings on the activities of the Committees that they have led since January. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the role played by Turkey, Austria and Mexico in leading the work of the Committees in 2010 and 2011.

My delegation would like to reaffirm its firm support for the actions undertaken and mechanisms set up under resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

The struggle against terrorism also requires more sustained international cooperation and the strengthening of the capacities of the States that are least equipped to effectively combat this scourge. Special attention must be paid to the credibility and legitimacy of international counter-terrorism efforts by ensuring full respect for obligations imposed under international, human rights, refugee and international humanitarian law. My delegation would like to make a few comments on these three Committees.

Turning to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, we welcome the first general update of the sanctions list of all individuals and entities suspected of being associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban. We believe that the various amendments made to the list in 2010 by the Monitoring Team and the substantial information provided on these persons and entities represent significant progress in terms of the fairness and transparency of the sanctions.

My delegation urges the Committee to continue its consideration of pending situations, pursuant to paragraph 26 of resolution 1904 (2009), especially those concerning deceased individuals and entities that no longer exist.

I take this opportunity to pay tribute, as other delegations have, to the assistance provided by the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost, in the Committee's consideration of de-listing requests submitted to it. We are also convinced that strengthening cooperation and dialogue between the Committee and Member States will enable us to better grasp the difficulties faced in the implementation of resolution 1267 (1999). Similarly, strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in the field of exchange of information remains essential.

With respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, my delegation welcomes the fact that the Committee has, first, improved its methods of work to ensure greater transparency and effectiveness in its work; and secondly, better utilized the tools at its

disposal, including preliminary assessments, to better focus on the needs of Member States, country visits, cooperation with regional organizations, and the promotion of codes of conduct.

We welcome the organization of regional training workshops as part of an approach that enables us to highlight the specific challenges faced in certain areas of the world. My country also had the honour of hosting, last June, a workshop for countries of the Central African subregion on the legal provisions applicable to illegal acts committed against the security of maritime navigation and offshore platforms. The conclusions of the workshop have enabled us to raise awareness among the countries of the subregion on the dangers of illegal practices on the high seas and to strengthen their cooperation with a view to putting an end to such practices. As the Chair of subcommittee C, Gabon will continue to support the efforts of the 1373 Committee.

With respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), my delegation welcomes the adoption on 20 April of resolution 1977 (2011), extending the mandate of the Committee for 10 more years. The resolution also recalls the obligation of Member States to adopt national provisions regarding the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. We therefore welcome the establishment of a group of experts under the Committee, charged with ensuring the implementation of the resolution. We also welcome the strengthening of the objectives of the Committee in the fields of assistance and cooperation.

In conclusion, we recall the global nature of counter-terrorism efforts, which require the active participation and cooperation of all States, international and regional organizations and civil society. Gabon will continue to lend its support to Ambassador Puri, Ambassador Wittig and Ambassador Sangqu in the discharge of their respective mandates.

Mr. Fernandes (Brazil): I thank Ambassadors Puri, Wittig and Sangqu for their valuable briefings and able chairmanship of their respective Committees. We commend the ongoing cooperation among these Committees, which play a central role in the broader United Nations counter-terrorism efforts.

There is no excuse for terrorist acts. Brazil has historically condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We are party to all relevant

international conventions and protocols against terrorism and fully support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The repudiation of terrorism is enshrined in the Brazilian Constitution as a fundamental principle of our international relations.

Brazil values the important work carried out by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities. We believe that its ongoing efforts to improve its working methods are crucial to strengthening its legitimacy. As we begin discussions on a revision of the work of the Committee, it is important to keep fairness and respect for due process as our guiding principles. In that regard, we believe that the recent proposals by a group of like-minded countries regarding listing and de-listing procedures, access to information and the activities of the Ombudsperson deserve careful consideration.

Brazil also commends the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate. We also appreciate the CTC's outreach activities, especially the technical assistance provided to Member States.

The risk of terrorists' gaining access to weapons of mass destruction will be completely eliminated only when these weapons no longer exist. The complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction must be our ultimate objective. In this sense, resolution 1540 (2004) remains an important tool for keeping non-State actors away from weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In order to preserve its widely recognized legitimacy, the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and its Group of Experts must continue to act in a transparent way and in particular reinforce their dialogue with the wider United Nations membership.

Brazil reaffirms its commitment to a coordinated and multidimensional response to the challenges posed by terrorism. Addressing the root causes of this scourge is also of the essence. The United Nations should be at the forefront of these efforts. The Security Council, through the work of the three Committees, must continue to strive to help bring terrorism to a definitive end.

Finally, we once more extend our heartfelt solidarity and sympathy to all those who have suffered from the devastating impact of terrorism.

Mr. Osorio (Colombia) (spoke in Spanish): At the outset, I would like to thank the representatives of Germany, India and South Africa for their detailed briefings on the activities of the counter-terrorism Committees and for their efforts and energetic work in leading them. The recommendations and analyses in their briefings deserve our careful attention.

The Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) are essential mechanisms to ensure the implementation of the obligations deriving from those instruments. It is therefore essential to continue strengthening their institutional capacities, continuously assess their working methods and revitalize their tools in order to facilitate cooperation and assistance to Member States.

To that end and in accordance with resolution 1963 (2010), the Counter-Terrorism Committee, through the Executive Directorate, should continue to work closely and in coordination with other United Nations bodies on capacity-building to apply the counter-terrorism international instruments, including the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the resolutions of the Security Council.

We welcome the review of the preliminary assessment of implementation format and the strengthening of dialogue with the Member States. Greater transparency in the preparation of assessments will provide more accurate information not only on the status of implementation, but also on the assistance needed by Member States. We highlight the renewed emphasis placed on respect for human rights as an essential part of international efforts against terrorism. In this regard, the Committee should also promote measures aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of victims of terrorism. Unfortunately, this essential element of the fight against terrorism, reflected in the Global Strategy, has not been properly developed in the framework of the Organization.

Regarding the 1267 Committee, Colombia welcomes the reforms introduced by resolution 1904 (2009), aimed at improving procedures, particularly with regard to respect for due process, transparency and the quality of the information contained in the consolidated list. The creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson was a major step towards the strengthening and legitimacy of the regime. Ms. Kimberly Prost has done an outstanding job in her few months as Ombudsperson.

We must continue to deepen the reform process aimed at establishing fairer and more transparent procedures. The Committee should ensure greater availability of and access to the information related to individuals and entities, and the reasons for listing and/or de-listing. It is necessary to strengthen the Office of the Ombudsperson and to provide resources sufficient to the effective accomplishment of the mandate. It is essential that the Committee facilitate the provision of assistance to Member States so they can have appropriate procedures to fully implement the obligations arising from resolution 1267 (1999) and subsequent resolutions.

I would like now to refer to the 1540 Committee. My delegation co-sponsored resolution 1977 (2011) because we are convinced that the very existence of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their delivery systems constitutes a threat to international peace and security. With the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), the Security Council acknowledged the progress achieved by States, and recognized that the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) is a task that requires ongoing efforts at the national, regional and international levels.

International cooperation and technical assistance are essential tools in responding effectively to the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop or use weapons of mass destruction and/or traffic in them. The extension of the mandate of the 1540 Committee for 10 years will help us to plan its long-term activities and increase its capacity to support Member States in implementing resolution 1540 (2004).

Through various resolutions, the Security Council has ordered that States must prevent all terrorist acts, block and punish their funding, offer no passive or active support for terrorism, and intensify and facilitate the exchange of operational information, inter alia. We therefore reiterate that cooperation in this respect cannot be left to the discretion of States but is an obligation under Chapter VII of the Charter.

My country has suffered the scourge of terrorism and condemns it in all its forms and manifestations. We reaffirm that there are neither motivations nor circumstances to justify it. We are convinced that terrorism can be defeated only with comprehensive and decisive action of the international community through cooperation and compliance with the obligations of international law. International declarations and

condemnation of terrorism of any form are essential, but even more important are decisive strikes against terrorism and its perpetrators, such as that which recently put an end to the criminal career of Osama Bin Laden. Terrorist groups and the international networks they have created remain active, requiring the international community to reiterate its resolve to fight them head on.

International cooperation should be the guiding principle in the fight against terrorism. It is therefore necessary to continue strengthening the coordination between the three Committees and between them and competent United Nations entities that are part of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

Mr. Yang Tao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu for their briefings.

The Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) has recently made notable progress in the comprehensive implementation of resolution 1904 (2009). In June, the Council shall adopt a draft resolution renewing sanctions against Al-Qaida and the Taliban. China hopes that the new resolution will help the Committee to improve its work and safeguard the authority and effectiveness of the sanctions regime.

China appreciates the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in implementing the Security Council's counter-terrorism resolutions. China supports the CTC's activities, such as the organization of workshops, improving national preliminary assessment of implementation reports, facilitating technical assistance, pursuing dialogue with Member States and helping them to intensify their counter-terrorism capacity-building.

The Security Council's unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011) reflects the resolve of Member States to promote international counter-proliferation efforts and represents a new phase in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). China hopes that the Committee will pursue its work in a practical and prudent manner, assist Member States in fulfilling their obligations under the resolution, and promote progress towards all goals set forth in resolution 1540 (2004) in a balanced, comprehensive and effective manner. China will continue alongside other Member States to support and participate in the work of the Committee and to promote further progress in the international non-proliferation process.

Terrorism is the arch-enemy of the international community, and China, too, has been its victim. China opposes all forms of terrorism and hopes that the international community will continue to intensify cooperation and take joint steps to crack down on it. China supports the ongoing efforts of the United Nations and the Security Council in playing a key role in the international struggle against terrorism.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the Chairmen of the three Committees, the Permanent Representatives of India, Germany and South Africa, for their exhaustive briefings and efforts alongside all members of the Security Council to promote international counter-terrorism cooperation. I should like to make the following comments.

First, with respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and Associated Individuals and Entities, Lebanon welcomes the efforts of the Committee, its Panel of Experts and the Secretariat, which have helped to update the consolidated list and better to disseminate information on the reasons for listing. We also support the efforts of the Ombudsperson, who has contributed to the transparency of the Committee's regime and to respect for the fundamental rights of listed individuals. We believe that the success of her mission is closely linked to States' cooperation with her. Lebanon supports efforts to improve the working methods of the Committee. In that regard, we reiterate that if we want sanctions to have greater legitimacy, they must be in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international humanitarian law, even if they are preventive in nature.

With regard to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which was established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), Lebanon welcomes its efforts and those of the Executive Directorate to promote the legislative and institutional capacities of States in combating terrorism. We encourage the continuation of cooperation with States and international and regional organizations in order to implement the provisions of resolutions 1624 (2005), 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999), for combating terrorism must be complemented by regional and subregional efforts. We welcome the Committee's meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations in Strasbourg in April to consider the best ways to prevent terrorism.

Lebanon looks forward to the comprehensive updated survey on resolution 1373 (2001), which will be published next month, as the survey will evaluate the implementation of the resolution and the challenges all of us face. We would also like to emphasize the importance of the meeting to be held to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001). That will be a very important international milestone that will provide us an opportunity to discuss the issue of terrorism and counter-terrorism in general.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), we support the adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), which extended the Committee's mandate for a further 10 years. The Committee will have to address a number of new challenges in the coming 10 years in order to fully implement the resolution's provisions. Resolution 1977 (2011) affirmed the importance of States' compliance with their obligations to work towards disarmament and limit proliferation. In that regard, we wish to stress the importance of all three aspects and the need to take into account the principle of equitable geographic representation in selecting the members of the Panel of Experts.

We welcome the role played by the Committee to strengthen the ability of States to take effective measures at the international level to prevent terrorists and non-State actors from acquiring sensitive technologies that could lead to proliferation, whether nuclear, biological or chemical. We believe that the assistance provided by the Committee and the Panel of Experts to States that request it is one of the key elements to implementation.

Efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international efforts are of great importance when it comes to providing assistance, exchanging experiences and capacity-building. All of this is aimed at better implementing resolution 1540 (2001). In that regard, I would like to recall the efforts made by the League of Arab States to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their falling into the hands of terrorists. We also wish to stress the importance of making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons.

Finally, given the numerous acts of terrorism we have suffered over the years, Lebanon is among the States most familiar with the dangers of terrorism. We

would therefore like to reaffirm our cooperation with the three Committees and our full support for counter-terrorism efforts.

We believe that the death of Osama bin Laden, leader of Al-Qaida, opens up a new chapter but does not bring an end to terrorism, which continues to claim lives on a daily basis regardless of faith or nationality. We therefore call for continued constructive dialogue among all countries to develop a common definition of terrorism pursuant to international human rights law. This is a scourge that threatens all of our lives, our security and our prosperity. It also threatens the values that unite us.

Notwithstanding the resolutions and steps adopted by the United Nations, Lebanon believes that the struggle against terrorism entails dealing with the root causes of this phenomenon, especially by eliminating hotbeds of tension, double standards, foreign occupation, ignorance and violations of human rights and sacred religious principles.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): Many thanks indeed to the Chairs of the three Committees for their very helpful briefings today. We commend their commitment and energy in leading the work of these Committees dedicated to the fight against terrorism.

This debate comes at an important moment. The death of Osama bin Laden has significant consequences for the fight against terrorism worldwide. As British Foreign Secretary William Hague said, it was a devastating, but not a terminal, blow to Al-Qaida. We will need to be as vigilant and as determined as ever in fighting terrorism. The United Nations, including through the work of these three Committees, has a crucial role to play. Let me turn first to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), which is a unique tool in countering terrorism worldwide and in its potential to support Afghan and international efforts on reconciliation in Afghanistan.

This sanctions regime has undergone significant reform since its inception, in 1999. The Committee has made great strides forward in ensuring that procedures are fair and clear. Today, it systematically and regularly reviews all designations. A fundamental development has been the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson. We are fortunate to have found such a well qualified and dedicated individual in Kimberly Prost as the first incumbent of that role. We are

encouraged by the level of cooperation that States have extended to Ms. Prost, the seriousness with which the Committee approaches this process and the significant improvements that Ms. Prost has already brought to bear on the de-listing process.

There is of course more that we can do. We must consider whether today Taliban and Al-Qaida listings belong under one sanctions regime. The death of bin Laden presents an opportunity for us to send a clear message to the Taliban that it is time for them to separate themselves from Al-Qaida and to participate in a peaceful political process in Afghanistan. We must ensure that the list of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) supports, rather than frustrates, this reconciliation process.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), too, we have come a long way. But the threat from international terrorism is evolving and becoming more diffuse. Our response to it as the international community must therefore evolve. The United Nations should continue to work to build the counter-terrorism capacity of all Member States. It must fill the gaps that would otherwise be exploited by terrorists, their financiers and their supporters. As we take this forward, we must ensure complementarity in the work of States, the United Nations and other multilateral actors to best mitigate the terrorist threat.

Finally, let me turn to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), which is a crucial component of international efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to terrorists. We welcome the recent renewal of resolution 1540 (2004), which placed it on a solid, long-term foundation. Our extension of its mandate by 10 years demonstrates the conviction of the Security Council that international action is essential to combat this threat. The United Kingdom believes that it is key that we continue to move from reporting to implementation over this period.

The next 10 years present an opportunity for us to achieve significant progress in implementation and for the 1540 Committee to assist States in meeting their obligations under this resolution. We must ensure that the Committee and the Group of Experts have the architecture in place to ensure that they can work efficiently and effectively to achieve this aim.

Within the Committee, we will soon begin a review of the Group of Experts to ensure that the Committee is getting the best possible support and that the Experts are working as effectively as possible to provide support to the States requesting assistance.

I should like to close by reiterating the importance that the United Kingdom attaches to the Security Council's fight against terrorism and our ongoing commitment to the work of the 1267, 1373 and 1540 Committees.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Ambassadors Wittig, Puri and Sangqu for their briefings.

I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as representative of France.

I should like at the outset to associate myself with the statement to be made later by the representative of the delegation of the European Union (EU) on behalf of the EU.

International terrorism remains a serious threat to international peace and security. The death of Osama Bin Laden does not mean the end of Al-Qaida. The relentless fight against those criminals must continue and involve all States Members of the United Nations.

The United Nations must remain mobilized through the work of its three sanctions committees. First, the sanctions regime set up in 1999 against Al-Qaida and the Taliban must continue to evolve, which will not weaken but strengthen it. The upcoming review of resolution 1904 (2009) will provide an opportunity for us to assess the effectiveness of sanctions, their adaptation to a constantly evolving threat and their legitimacy. To that end, we must take into account the changing relationship between the Taliban and Al-Qaida over the past 10 years and their respective objectives. We should like also to see the sanctions regime have a more direct impact on the quest for a political solution to the conflict in Afghanistan. Thus we wish to bolster the legitimacy of the current regime by responding to a number of criticisms, some of which are justified, by improving the mechanisms set up pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009).

Secondly, 10 years after its creation, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) is continuing to make progress in the fight against terrorism at the global level, even as States continue to face new challenges. I

should like to touch on two areas in which the Committee, as a result of the support of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), adds value that is recognized by all: border protection and the fight against the financing of terrorism.

In that context, the regional workshop held recently by the CTED in Nouakchott with the participation of practitioners from the Sahelian region opens the door to improved regional cooperation in an area that is especially affected by terrorism. The combat against terrorism also requires that many States improve their technical capacities. France is making a contribution in this area and is determined to support the work of the CTED in this field.

Thirdly, with respect to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), I, too, should like to welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), which extends for a further 10 years the mandate of the Committee. The Council is thus sending a clear and unified signal on the need for long-term action by the international community to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) also provides the Committee with the means to more effectively fulfil its mandate. These include the strengthening of the Group of Experts charged with assisting it; the five-year review mechanism; and the drawing up of a list of specific priorities in the area of the sharing of experiences and best practices and in the promotion of an active dialogue, including on the ground, between the Committee and States regarding their implementation efforts.

We also welcome the fact that resolution 1977 (2011) strengthens the work of the Committee in the field of assistance, an area to which we attach particular importance. France is thus ready, in cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, to host a conference in Paris on assistance. We must not only raise awareness about resolution 1540 (2004) but also focus our efforts on its concrete implementation by all Member States. Resolution 1977 (2011) provides us with a clear road map for the next years. It is now up to us to use these new tools, and we intend to work actively in that respect with the other members of the Committee.

Finally, coordination is important. That is why France lends its full support to the work of the

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which will continue to coordinate the work of various actors, including the three Committees we are dealing with today.

I now resume my functions as President of the Council.

Mr. Nishida (Japan): At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairs of the Council's three counter-terrorism-related committees for their respective briefings on the developments during the last six months.

Japan welcomes the recent remarkable progress in the field of counter-terrorism. Yet the death of Osama Bin Laden does not mean the end of the fight against terrorism. The threat of terrorism remains serious, and it is necessary for the international community to cooperate closely in all areas of counter-terrorism. In that regard, the work of the three committees continues to be of high significance.

In order to strengthen the counter-terrorism capacity of individual Member States, the enhancement of assistance for capacity-building is a matter of urgency.

We welcome the adoption of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) and the decision contained therein regarding the 10-year extension of the mandate of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We commend the fact that the resolution focuses on activities such as implementation, assistance, international cooperation and transparency. With respect to the implementation of the relevant resolutions, we must address the issue of Member States' limited resources, expertise and capacity to fully implement the resolution. We must also increase awareness among Member States through assistance and outreach activities. In this regard, Japan is co-organizing a seminar, to be held on 31 May, to exchange views and experiences on non-proliferation, including with regard to resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011). We will continue to cooperate with the activities of the 1540 Committee so that we may achieve the international objective of non-proliferation.

In order to strengthen counter-terrorism capacity, an assessment of the shortfall of counter-terrorism measures in Member States is essential. In this regard, we attach great importance to the preliminary implementation assessment by the CTC as a crucial

tool and consider the country visits conducted by the CTC to be one of the most valuable mechanisms for making the assessment more effective. Such visits facilitate an accurate assessment of the current situation of counter-terrorism in a given country, as they provide direct contact with the relevant authorities. The CTC has decided to conduct a country visit to Japan by the end of 2013. We anticipate that the visit will be a good opportunity for Japan and the CTC to have a fruitful discussion on the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Japan will continue its efforts to strengthen its national capacity and to assist, to the maximum extent possible, in the enhancement of the counter-terrorism capacities of other States, especially developing States. Even after the death of Osama bin Laden, Member States should continue to implement rigorously assets freezes and other relevant measures against him and against individuals and entities associated with him.

In order for the 1267 sanctions regime to be fully effective, continued efforts to ensure the credibility of the Consolidated List are indispensable. To that end, Japan took active part in the negotiations for resolution 1904 (2009) as a member of the Security Council.

It is my hope that, at the review in June this year pursuant to resolution 1904 (2009), the legitimacy and credibility of the Consolidated List will be enhanced and the 1267 sanctions regime will be strengthened. In this regard, we call on the members of the Security Council, taking into account the obligations of the Member States under the Charter of the United Nations, to duly consider the proposals by like-minded States, including Switzerland and Costa Rica. Japan will continue to cooperate actively with the 1267 Committee, the Ombudsperson and the Monitoring Team.

As we approach the tenth anniversary of September 11 and of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), Japan supports the initiative by the Counter-Terrorism Committee to organize a special meeting open to the wider membership and relevant stakeholders. We expect that, as this year marks a milestone in our collective global counter-terrorism efforts, this meeting will provide a good opportunity for the international community to reflect on and review the progress made so far in the fight against terrorism.

At the same time, we strongly request that the three Committees make a determined effort to enhance their mutual cooperation, while avoiding duplication of work, and to cooperate with Member States and other relevant organizations both inside and outside the United Nations to achieve our common goal of eradicating terrorism. The Government of Japan will continue to take all possible measures to counter worldwide terrorism and to cooperate positively and proactively in the efforts of the three Committees.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Pakistan.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): Mr. President, we congratulate you and the delegation of France for the excellent work of the Security Council under your leadership this month. We also felicitate the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations and his team for their successful presidency of the Council during the month of April.

We support the efforts of the Council's three subsidiary Committees in promoting greater transparency and dialogue with Member States with regard to their respective areas of activities.

Pakistan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. Terrorism and extremism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society. No religious tradition or doctrine should be depicted as encouraging or inspiring acts of terrorism.

Roughly 72 hours ago, two terrorist suicide bombers attacked a paramilitary training centre in northwest Pakistan, killing more than 80 soldiers of the Frontier Corps and injuring more than 70 other persons. The incident has once again highlighted the enormous sacrifices that Pakistan continues to make in order to rid the world of terrorism.

Pakistan needs the solid and unwavering support of the international community in its fight against terrorism. Pakistan has deployed 160,000 troops on its border with Afghanistan and has set up 822 border posts to interdict members of Al-Qaida and Taliban. As a result of terrorist acts and our efforts to root out terrorism, Pakistan has lost 30,000 men, women and children and more than 5,000 armed forces personnel.

The international community needs to promote economic and social development as part of a holistic

approach to curb and eliminate extremism and terrorism. The promotion of socio-economic development in places afflicted by extremism should be a high priority.

Pakistan has made considerable progress in countering the financing of terrorism. Pakistan has become a party to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering bill. A Financial Monitoring Unit has been established in the State Bank of Pakistan to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Hundreds of bank accounts, to the tune of 750.8 million rupees, have been frozen. We are implementing the comprehensive international standards embodied in the 40 recommendations and 9 special recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force. We are active members of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) organized a workshop for Pakistani parliamentarians in Islamabad in November 2009 and a study visit of Pakistan's parliamentarians to Turkey in February this year. Today, the Executive Director of CTED, Mr. Mike Smith, is in Islamabad to organize a workshop for strengthening anti-money-laundering laws and countering financing for terrorism.

We have noted the work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) for 2011 annexed to document S/2011/223, and we appreciate the Committee's efforts to enhance transparency by holding informal briefings for Member States.

The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee and its Monitoring Team have a difficult task to perform. We appreciate the efforts of the 1267 Sanctions Committee to bring clarity to its working methods, and we note that the Committee has made an effort to improve its guidelines. There are many interesting ideas in the eleventh report of the Monitoring Team (see S/2011/245) to improve the Committee's performance and enhance transparency in its work. Some of those ideas are hard to implement, and others can be incorporated easily in the current regime. Different ideas to enhance the efficacy of the 1267 sanctions regime need to be studied in detail.

We are of the view that the institution of the Ombudsperson must be strengthened and her views on listing and de-listing issues given due weight. In case of disagreement between observations of the

Ombudsperson and a decision of the Committee, the rationale for the Committee's decision should be made public in the interest of greater transparency.

We are not surprised that decisions of domestic and international courts and tribunals on the 1267 sanctions regime have garnered worldwide attention. The litigation relating to individuals and entities on the Consolidated List in Canada; the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights, the United Kingdom, Pakistan and the United States has highlighted legal challenges faced by the sanctions regime in various parts of the world.

The preventive nature of the sanctions makes the listings very simple and enforcement-friendly. However, the legal community is more inclined to verifiable evidence that could be acceptable in a court of law. The questions of due process and effective remedy are at the heart of court deliberations. We will have to consider exclusive sharing of the verifiable evidence with the courts and fixing a time limit for the effectiveness of a listing.

Pakistan was a member of the Security Council when resolution 1540 (2004) was adopted. We agreed that it was a timely measure to address the threat of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors. We have consistently identified the need to make the 1540 follow-up mechanism more inclusive, transparent and balanced in terms of responsibilities of States and the international cooperation available to them to achieve its objectives.

We believe that the recently adopted resolution 1977 (2011), which extended the mandate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), should have been negotiated after an open debate by the Council. In such a debate, all Members of the United Nations would have had the opportunity to express their views on, inter alia, the scope, limitations, future direction, tenure of mandate and experiences in the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004). That open debate would have then provided the basis for the negotiations and extension of the resolution. Such an open and inclusive process for discussing an important resolution would have helped to increase the level of confidence of all United Nations Member States in this process, as it is they that are ultimately required to implement the resolution, which has its roots in State-driven efforts.

The President (spoke in French): I now give the floor to the representative of Turkey.

Mr. Miftüoglu (Turkey): Let me begin by thanking the three Chairmen of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for their comprehensive and informative briefings. We highly appreciate their leadership and the valuable work undertaken by the Committees they respectively chair.

Earlier this month, the Security Council voiced the sentiments of the larger international community when it welcomed the news that Osama bin Laden would never again be able to perpetrate acts of terrorism, and reaffirmed that terrorism could not and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or group (see S/PRST/2011/9).

Despite that development, which certainly marks as an important milestone in global efforts to eradicate terrorism, there is no room for complacency. Indeed, today, terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose serious threats to international peace and security. No country is immune to those cross-border threats. We should thus act in an even more steadfast manner and strive to increase the effectiveness of our endeavours.

I would like to thank to Mr. Peter Wittig, Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), for his valuable efforts. Over the past decade, the sanctions regime has proven to be an effective tool in countering Al-Qaida and Taliban terrorists and other individuals and entities affiliated with those groups. We believe that it has been instrumental in preventing many possible terrorist attacks by imposing sanctions against individuals and entities on its consolidated list.

At this stage, we need to concentrate our efforts on further strengthening the sanctions regime. In that regard, the rulings of national and regional courts concerning some of the names on the list prove to be a priority area that requires further and careful attention. In that context, Turkey will pursue a constructive and flexible approach so that the principles of due process and fair procedures are taken into consideration, as called for in some court decisions, without prejudging the final decisions of the 1267 Committee.

We are also following the review process of the consolidated list. With the active contribution of the Monitoring Team, the Committee has already reviewed a significant number of names. We hope that, with the finalization of the review process, the consolidated list will better reflect current threats, and thus become a more credible instrument in coping with the challenges.

We welcome the prolongation and refinement of the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate through resolution 1963 (2010). In particular, we appreciate the resolution's focus on countering incitement to terrorist acts motivated by extremism and on ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. Both aspects are crucial for combating international terrorism in an effective and legitimate manner.

We also would like to thank the members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and especially the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Permanent Representative of India, for his seamless efforts. We also would like to recognize Mr. Mike Smith, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, and his professional and hardworking team for their support and contributions to the work of the Committee.

That said, there are still deficiencies in the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), deriving from the lack of either political will or capacity. In our view, one of the main challenges of the Committee is to ensure that Member States fully understand their obligations as listed in those resolutions and take the necessary measures to implement them. In that regard, the dialogue between the Committee and Member States should be intensified so that the Committee can more effectively fulfil its monitoring and assistance tasks. For its part, Turkey will effectively and actively strive to achieve further progress in that direction. It is important that the focus be on the practical measures for either expanding the scope of some of the already-existing arrangements or filling in the gaps identified in implementation.

Since its adoption, resolution 1540 (2004) has emerged as an important component of the global non-proliferation and counter-terrorism regimes. We are pleased that the level of implementation of the resolution has improved remarkably. We thank the

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Baso Sangqu, and the Group of Experts for their diligent work. Turkey continues to support the comprehensive review of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), which in our opinion is a continuous process. Our efforts should therefore continue unabated.

We believe that the country visits and outreach events, such as conferences, seminars and workshops, organized at the regional and subregional levels, are also highly beneficial. We therefore support the continuation of such activities within the framework of all three Committees.

Before I conclude, let me emphasize again that effectively countering terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction can only be ensured through close cooperation among all Member States as part of an integrated approach. I would like to reiterate the determination of my country to continue to actively support the work of all three Committees.

The President (spoke in French): It is now 12.30 p.m. and I have 10 speakers still inscribed on my list. I intend to continue with the debate until we have heard all speakers. I ask the remaining speakers to make their remarks as succinct as possible.

I now give the floor to the representative of Costa Rica.

Mr. Ullbarri (Costa Rica): I have the honour to address the Council on behalf of the informal group of like-minded countries that has taken a specific interest in the question of fair and clear procedures in targeted sanctions. That group currently includes Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

I will concentrate my remarks on the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, in particular the question of improving fair and clear procedures and thereby also strengthening the effectiveness of the sanctions regime. I should underline that the group fully supports and recognizes the application of targeted sanctions as a useful and necessary tool to effectively combat international terrorism.

The issue at hand is how to ensure that the Council and its Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee can continue to take effective and decisive action in the face of terrorism while at the same time honouring fundamental rule-of-law and due process guarantees. Our common obligation to implement decisions made by the Council coexists with our obligation to respect fundamental human rights. As is well known, the current sanctions regime continues to face legal challenges, including by proceedings in national and regional courts. That not only poses challenges for Member States, but also creates the risk of diluting the perceived authority vested in the Security Council.

Those challenges are not a phenomenon that is specific to one particular region alone. Individuals are pursuing their right to challenge their designation in regional and national courts around the globe. The efficiency of the sanctions regime and the protection of human rights are of global concern. The strengthening of the system has to be pursued on a global level.

The like-minded countries welcome the successive improvements that have been made to the 1267 sanctions regime so far, notably the establishment of the focal point, the introduction of narrative summaries and the comprehensive review undertaken and followed by detailed periodic reviews of the consolidated list and the various categories of listings. Most importantly, we see the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson as a major step forward. In this regard, we wish to commend the work that Judge Kimberly Prost has already undertaken. However, we believe that still more can and needs to be done.

It is against this background, and with a view to the adoption of the follow-up to resolution 1904 (2009) in mid-June, that we sent a letter to the President of the Council early in April outlining several proposals that we believe would merit close consideration by the Council in its continued efforts to improve and strengthen the system. This letter has been distributed as an annex to the written version of this statement. In the interest of time, I will briefly highlight only some of the proposals.

A key proposal is to introduce a time limit for all listings. A set time limit would underline the preventive and temporary nature of the sanctions measures. It could also have implications for the level

of applicable due process requirements. We would like to stress that the proposed sunset clause would not result in automatic de-listings once the time limit has expired. The Council and its sanctions committee would retain the prerogative of maintaining a name on the list upon review, but by affirmative decision. We call on the Council to seriously consider introducing such time limits for listings.

Secondly, a fundamental element of due process is that the listed individual or entity be given access to sufficient information to present an effective defence. Much has already been achieved with the introduction of narrative summaries of reasons for listings. Both the narrative summaries and other information given to a petitioner should be as detailed and comprehensive as possible, which presupposes that States have provided the Committee with such information. Upon request, the Committee should, after consultation with the designating State, inform the petitioner through the Ombudsperson about the identity of the designating State. We encourage the Council to look into every possibility for improving its information base and the petitioner's legitimate access to such information.

A third element that I would like to highlight is the need for the enhanced cooperation of States with the Ombudsperson, which is particularly relevant with regard to access to information. Legal and practical ways should be actively explored to allow the Ombudsperson access to all relevant information regarding a particular listing. We encourage the Council to make express provisions in the upcoming resolution for Member States' full cooperation with the Ombudsperson.

The like-minded group also proposed a series of improvements regarding the procedures for de-listing. Important in themselves, these improvements would also serve to further counter the argument that listing is a one-way street. For instance, the Committee should take its de-listing decisions by majority vote. In cases where, in the view of the Ombudsperson, the retention of a list entry is no longer founded, the Ombudsperson should be competent to recommend de-listing.

Absent the Committee's decision within 30 days to confirm the entry on the list, the entry should be de-listed. The sanctions committee would retain its full prerogative of deciding whether to maintain a name on the list or not. In cases where a de-listing request has been rejected, it is proposed that the Committee

provide reasons for its decision to be transmitted to the petitioner through the Ombudsperson and the States concerned.

Let me conclude by making some general remarks. Our proposals are not intended to question the legitimacy or prerogatives of the Security Council. On the contrary, the proposals would serve to better safeguard the credibility and efficiency of its work by enabling the Council to continue to assert its powers while advancing fundamental due process principles. The overarching goal is to strengthen the current system. Improving the fairness and clarity of the procedures would be conducive to a more efficient implementation of the sanctions regime by Member States. Rendering the system more sustainable would enhance the authority of the Council and that of the Organization as whole.

The like-minded countries wish to continue a constructive dialogue with the Council and are grateful for the interest already expressed by so many of its members. We look forward to fruitful negotiations in June leading to significant improvements to enhance fair and clear procedures in the 1267 sanctions regime.

I would now like to make some very brief comments in my national capacity.

(spoke in Spanish)

Costa Rica supports the comprehensive approach of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy approved by the General Assembly in September 2006, which explicitly acknowledges as part of the Strategy the relevance of the protection of human rights and the rule of law. Costa Rica believes that one of the major institutional challenges to the United Nations system is achieving a consistent policy that does not seek to organize human rights and counter-terrorism into a hierarchy.

With regard to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), I would like to focus on two additional aspects.

First, despite the major progress made, we still believe that the final aim must be to establish an independent review mechanism. Secondly, we believe that it is appropriate to make public the identity of each designating State. To the extent that there is appropriate transparency in that regard, each designating State will have additional reasons to justify its requests for listing and bear responsibility for them.

Costa Rica reiterates its commitment to implementing all resolutions of the Security Council that seek to combat terrorism in all of its manifestations. We trust that these regimes will be strengthened by means of procedures that are increasingly fair and just.

The President (spoke in French): I call on the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Núñez Mosquera (Cuba) (spoke in Spanish): I thank the Chairs of the Committees for the information they have provided. The three Committees have carried out commendable work that Cuba values and closely follows. My country, as all know, complies strictly with its obligations under resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

Cuba reiterates its firmest rejection of all terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations, regardless of who commits them, against whom they are perpetrated and where they are carried out. All terrorist acts, for whatever purposes they are carried out, must be condemned.

The Cuban people has suffered first hand a broad spectrum of terrorist attacks since the triumph of its Revolution. As indicated by President Raúl Castro,

"as early as March 1960, President Eisenhower approved a covert action programme against the island that was declassified a few years ago. The United States Central Intelligence Agency played a leading role in planning, providing logistical support, recruiting and training mercenaries to carry out terrorist acts under the aegis of the Government of that country — arson, bombings, sabotage of every type, the seizing of aircraft, ships and Cuban citizens, attacks against our Government offices and killings of diplomats, machine gunning of dozens of facilities, many attempts to put an end to the lives of the principal leaders of the Revolution, and particularly hundreds of plans and actions targeting the Commander-in-chief".

The Cuban people have lost some 3,478 of their number as victims of terrorism. Another 2,099 have been left permanently disabled by acts of terrorism carried out over the course of half a century against our country. This is precisely why we strongly condemn all acts and manifestations of terrorism, wherever and by whomsoever committed. Cuba has an impeccable

record in addressing terrorism, and I wish to reiterate our steadfast resolve not to allow Cuban territory to be used to organize, instigate, support or carry out acts of terrorism.

My country has systematically provided a number of comprehensive reports on this topic to the relevant Committee. We have strict and effective controls on our borders, based on our more than 50 years of experience fighting terrorism, that have allowed us to thwart many acts of terrorism. Cuba has subscribed to the 13 international conventions on this topic and strictly complies with its commitments and obligations arising from the resolutions of the General Assembly and Security Council.

My country does not possess weapons of mass destruction of any type and has no intention to acquire them. It respects its obligations under relevant international instruments on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

We believe the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288) to be of the utmost importance. My country has implemented various legislative measures in this area, including long before the adoption of the Strategy, with a view to preventing and suppressing all acts and activities directly or indirectly relating to terrorism.

For all of these reasons, I reiterate Cuba's rejection of the unilateral development by the Government of the United States of America of a list of States that supposedly support terrorism, and the inclusion of Cuba on that list. This practice is in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. It is spurious and politically motivated. No Government can arrogate the right to categorize the actions of other nations with regard to terrorism, especially not a Government of double standards that refuses to prosecute confessed perpetrators of horrendous terrorist acts against Cuba and other countries of this hemisphere, such as Luis Posada Carriles, allowing them instead to roam free and participate in political activities.

I have here a book entitled *Voices from the Other Side: An Oral History of Terrorism Against Cuba*, by Keith Bolender, which I make available to the relevant Committee and the Security Council, together with the other materials with which we keep the Committee informed. This book, which was launched here at the

United Nations on 26 April, contains a detailed explanation of the many terrorist acts perpetrated against the Cuban people, organized and funded from the United States, with the participation of a mafia that enjoys impunity in this country.

I also have here, available to the Committee, a DVD entitled "Cuba's Reasons: Path of Terror", with information and testimony from the Salvadorian terrorist Francisco Chávez Abarca, who was recruited by Posada Carriles to carry out criminal acts against Cuba. These materials, together with many others from the same series, can be accessed on the website www.cubadebate.cu.

All of these actions against Cuba enjoy the blessing of the United States Government. Incontrovertible proof of that can be seen in the result of the recent legal farce in El Paso against the well-known and self-confessed terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, who was tried not for terrorism but for perjury, despite all the evidence against him in the possession of the United States Government. He was acquitted of all charges and moves freely about this country, enjoying official protection and announcing further terrorist acts with total impunity.

On the other hand, five Cuban patriots — heroes in my country — were unjustly sentenced and cruelly imprisoned for trying to prevent terrorist acts against Cuba from the United States. Only three weeks ago, on 25 April, the Prosecutor requested that the habeas corpus petition made by one of them, Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, be rejected, and did the same shortly thereafter with respect to those made by Antonio Guerrero and René González. These three, together with Ramón Labañino and Fernando González, are irrefutable proof of the terrorism perpetrated by the United States against the Cuban people.

I reiterate here once again our willingness to make a more detailed presentation on these issues before the Counter-Terrorism Committee and to provide any additional information or clarification deemed necessary.

Cuba will continue to strictly comply with the provisions of resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) and to cooperate with the subsidiary bodies created pursuant to those resolutions.

In conclusion, I reaffirm my country's readiness to cooperate with all States, including the United States of America, in preventing and combating international terrorism on the basis of mutual respect, the sovereign equality of States and the principles and norms of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to Spain.

Mr. De Laiglesia (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): I appreciate the opportunity offered to my delegation to participate in this open debate on the activities carried out by the three Security Council Committees specialized in the fight against terrorism. At the outset, I wish to note that Spain fully aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the European Union.

Terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Acts of terrorism are unjustifiable wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The United Nations system has carried out important work in the fight against terrorism and should continue to play an important role as the guarantor of international law. The implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by consensus by the General Assembly in 2006 (resolution 60/288), is a valuable tool against the global threat of terrorism. The Security Council should carry out its work in a way that is complementary to the efforts of the General Assembly, which should in general be the pre-eminent forum for the international community to formulate its responses to the global problems of our time.

I reiterate Spain's firm commitment to fighting all forms of terrorism, regardless of its motivation or manifestation, and my Government's wish to see this objective be a permanent priority on the agenda of the United Nations.

It is essential to work at the national and international levels to prevent and combat this scourge. In doing so, we must not neglect to address the underlying causes of terrorism, such as radicalization. The Alliance of Civilizations initiative, noted in resolution 1963 (2010), which Spain promoted as a

tool for enhancing understanding among countries, societies and individuals, can be useful in this regard.

Moral and political reasons compel us to provide assistance and support to the victims of terrorism. The convening by the Secretary-General of a new symposium in support of victims of terrorism, as a continuation of the one convened in 2008, would be much appreciated by Spain. On this matter, we also hope the Security Council will provide the necessary continuity to its intention expressed in resolution 1566 (2004) regarding assistance to victims of terrorism through establishing an assistance fund or a practical assistance mechanism, as set out in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy adopted by the General Assembly (General Assembly resolution 60/288).

I would like to thank the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the information provided and the work they have carried out together with their respective groups of experts.

First, Spain would like to highlight the work of the 1267 Committee. We value the efforts to increase the transparency of the review and updating of the names of persons and entities on the sanction regime's Consolidated List. The adoption of Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) led to an improvement in the application of the sanctions regime in response to concerns expressed by national and regional courts.

The creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson is starting to bear fruit. Ms. Prost presented her first report to the Security Council (S/2011/29) early this year and the Security Council, in its presidential statement adopted on February 28 (S/PRST/2011/5), recalled the obligation to ensure that the Office continues to perform its work effectively, to which the renewal of its mandate in June will contribute.

Spain wants to highlight as well the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to monitor compliance with resolutions 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005) and 1963 (2010) and to facilitate technical assistance to countries that request it. We welcome the dialogue, in the context of fighting terrorism, between

the CTC and relevant bodies promoting and protecting human rights, such as the Council of Europe.

Similarly, we want to highlight the new strategy devised by the Executive Directorate to enhance its role as facilitator of technical assistance and to undertake a permanent dialogue between donor and recipient States, in the interest of greater efficiency. The adoption of resolution 1963 (2010), which extended the mandate of the Executive Directorate, will enable the Directorate to increase its participation in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and make it the pre-eminent facilitator of technical assistance, strengthening States' capacities and thereby reinforcing the desired integral nature of the fight against terrorism.

The proliferation and possession of weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors or States outside the scope or in violation of international law constitute serious threats to international peace and security. We express our support for the efforts of the 1540 Committee to design mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of that resolution and its work to extend its universal application. Spain welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1977 (2011), which extends and strengthens the mandate of the Committee in the essential framework of full and strict compliance with the obligations and commitments incumbent upon Member States in matters of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. In this context, Spain wants to highlight the work of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and calls for increased cooperation among all stakeholders with expertise in combating nuclear terrorism.

I conclude by expressing Spain's appreciation for the efforts of these three Committees to improve the effectiveness of their work. It is also encouraging to see the growing awareness that all measures taken must respect the rights of individuals. With this essential respect for human rights, the whole international community must demonstrate its firm determination to face down the barbarity of terrorism.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Switzerland.

Mr. Seger (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Because I am speaking on behalf of the Human Security Network, I will deliver my statement in English.

(spoke in English)

It is my honour to speak on behalf of Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, Mali, Norway, Slovenia, Thailand, South Africa as an observer, and my own country, Switzerland. The Human Security Network is an informal group of States that advocates a people-centred, holistic approach to security, which complements the more traditional understanding of national and international security.

Let me join the other speakers in thanking the Chairs of the three Committees for their informative briefings.

Terrorism is undeniably a major threat to human security. The Human Security Network therefore supports the fight against international terrorism based on the principles of the Charter, international law and the relevant international conventions, and it welcomes the strong leading role the United Nations has taken in this field. From a human security perspective, the strength of the United Nations actions against terrorism is commensurate with the respect for the founding objectives of the United Nations.

Of particular importance is the adherence to human rights and fundamental freedoms and the observance of the rule of law in situations where the United Nations actions directly affect individual rights, which is the case in the work of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities.

Against that background, the Human Security Network welcomes the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (General Assembly resolution 60/288) five years ago — recently reaffirmed, in 2010 (General Assembly resolution 64/297) — which offers a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism. We affirm the important role of the United Nations system in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems, which constitute the fundamental basis of our common fight against terrorism.

The Human Security Network also emphasizes that further international cooperation among States, international and regional organizations and the United

Nations is essential in the fight against international terrorism in order not just to combat and eliminate terrorism but also to prevent it.

The Human Security Network applauds the considerable efforts of the Security Council to make the procedures of its Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee clearer and fairer, in particular through the adoption of resolutions 1822 (2008) and 1904 (2009), which introduced periodic reviews of the Consolidated List and an enhanced system of notifications and established the Office of the Ombudsperson. We are convinced that clearer and fairer procedures render the work of the 1267 Committee more legitimate and thus more effective.

The Network observes, however, that concerns still remain as to the rights of listed individuals and entities. Accordingly, we have taken note with interest of the suggestions of the group of like-minded States on targeted sanctions — as presented earlier by my colleague from Costa Rica — on how the procedures of the 1267 Sanctions Committee could be improved, in particular in the field of listing, de-listing and strengthening the mandate of the Ombudsperson. We therefore encourage the Security Council to consider the recommendations of the group of like-minded States, also in view of the adoption of a follow up to resolution 1904 (2009) in June 2011.

The President (spoke in French): I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Permit me, at the outset, to thank the Chairmen of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for their comprehensive and informative briefings. ASEAN is deeply supportive of their work and looks forward to continued cooperation and collaboration with them.

Today's meeting comes at a remarkable time for members of ASEAN. For many years, we have recognized the global challenge of terrorism and have worked with the international community in that respect. But we have also worked diligently on a

regional basis to complement the efforts of the global community. With this in mind, ASEAN is pleased to announce the imminent entry into force later this month of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism. This is a very important tool in our arsenal. ASEAN also re-emphasizes the importance of working towards acceding to and ratifying the relevant international instruments on counter-terrorism.

During the eighteenth ASEAN Summit in Jakarta last week, ASEAN leaders also agreed to continue promoting the effective implementation of the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism and to develop initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of terrorism and conditions that are conducive to terrorism and to promote cooperation on deradicalization and interfaith dialogues. ASEAN is of the view that these efforts would also contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

ASEAN is determined to continue to cooperate, not only in the prevention and suppression of extremism and terrorism but also to address and remove the root causes and conditions that give rise to these threats to humanity. ASEAN approaches that task through the promotion of development that is, both equitable and inclusive. Such development would also embody peaceful and mutual respect among the various communities and take into account their peculiarities of diversity and historical uniqueness.

ASEAN continues to work to coordinate and cooperate with the United Nations on key global issues in general, and with the counter-terrorism Committees of the Security Council in particular. We would, however, like to see further cooperation and coordination among the three counter-terrorism Committees in order to ensure broader support from the wider membership of the United Nations.

ASEAN recognizes that, to be effective, a global counter-terrorism strategy should be broad, comprehensive and based on profound respect for human rights, with full adherence and respect for human rights and the dignity of the person. ASEAN therefore acknowledges the important work being done within the United Nations system to spur and sustain development, to provide education and to encourage intercultural and interreligious dialogue as part of the broader efforts to address terrorism and to counter radicalization.

ASEAN underscores the importance of implementing resolution 1904 (2009), in particular the provisions regarding coordination and outreach, whereby the expert groups of the Committees are to enhance information sharing and coordination on visits to countries within their respective mandates, on facilitating and monitoring technical assistance, on relations with international and regional organizations and agencies and on other issues of relevance to the three Committees. The resolution further underlines the need for the groups to be co-located as soon as possible.

Allow me to now touch briefly on specific references to the individual Council counter-terrorism Committees.

With reference to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), ASEAN member States have carried out their obligations under the resolution. We call upon the Security Council to promote the legitimacy and credibility of the Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime, in particular by addressing concerns about due process and transparency in its listing and de-listing procedures.

Turning to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), ASEAN member States have also taken measures at the national and regional levels to carry out the various obligations under the resolution. We now have various mechanisms in place to achieve these objectives. However, we urge the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to intensify cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, with a view to enhancing the capacity of Member States to fully implement resolution 1373 (2001) and to facilitating the provision of technical assistance. We would also like to reiterate the importance of cooperation in capacity-building programmes, both for ASEAN and on a country-specific basis, as a two-pronged approach that would benefit all ASEAN stakeholders and the larger international community.

On the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), ASEAN member States have taken measures at the national, subregional, regional and international levels to strengthen the global response to the serious challenge and threat to international peace and security posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their

means of delivery. Furthermore, ASEAN member States have taken measures to strengthen export controls, to prevent proliferation financing and shipments and to secure sensitive materials that could be used for weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that ASEAN stands ready to continue to work together and to contribute to the successful outcome of our common efforts in the fight against terrorism.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Israel.

Mr. Reuben (Israel): Thank you, Mr. President, for convening this important debate. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the Chairpersons of the counter-terrorism Committees for their professional work and for their informative briefings this morning.

We welcome the opportunity to engage in such exchanges and in the periodic informal briefings for Member States. We hope that they will continue to be held on a regular basis. The comprehensive briefing held by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force last week is another encouraging initiative that further demonstrates the significance of close cooperation and coordination among all United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, particularly the Security Council counter-terrorism Committees.

Monitoring and ensuring that States fully implement Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) remain at the core of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's activities. The upcoming tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1373 (2001), later this year, serves as a reminder of the vital and ongoing role of the Committee. Earlier this year, Israel submitted its preliminary implementation assessment, reflecting its commitment to a continued, informed and constructive dialogue with this important body.

Technical assistance, facilitated by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), is an essential tool for countering terrorism that offers an important means for developing expertise and sharing best practices. In this regard, Israel continues to expand its technical assistance and cooperation on several levels and in a number of regions.

To the same end, Israel's counter-terrorism agencies cooperate with a large number of regional organizations. We recently signed an agreement with

the counter-terrorism branch of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism for a joint cooperation project in Latin America, particularly in the fields of improving aviation security, preventing the financing of terrorism and countering radicalization.

The recent removal of Osama bin Laden from the terrorist landscape represents a significant step forward in the fight against terrorism. However, despite recent advances in the fight against terrorism — and indeed, perhaps because of them — we must be ever more vigilant. Preventing acts of terrorism is only one part of the challenge. Addressing incitement to terrorism represents another long-term and equally difficult part of the equation. Resolution 1624 (2005) unanimously condemned the incitement to, justification of or glorification of acts of terrorism. In this regard, the Internet poses both a challenge and an opportunity.

We therefore support the efforts of CTED pursuant to resolution 1963 (2010) to produce a global implementation survey of resolution 1624 (2005) by December. We also support its decision to update its global implementation survey on resolution 1373 (2001) by June, in order to assess the evolution of risks and threats.

The anguish of countless victims of terrorism provides a powerful reminder that no cause or grievance can ever justify terrorism. Every day, at least one Member State suffers from some form of a terrorist attack. Roadside bombs, rockets, mortars, suicide bombers and kidnappings continue to wreak havoc and bring grief and agony to nearly every corner of the world.

Given Israel's first-hand experience with the devastation caused by terrorism, we attribute particular importance to United Nations initiatives to voice and commemorate the untold stories of the victims of terrorism. Every day, more Israelis fall within the range of terrorist rockets as a result of illegal arms smuggling into Gaza. Hamas's and Hizbullah's ever-growing arsenal of missiles and rockets is made possible by the continuous transfer and smuggling of weapons and ammunition by two prime sponsors of terrorism in our region, namely, Iran and Syria. Only two months ago, we witnessed another example of this illegal activity when the cargo vessel *Victoria*, which set sail from Syria, was found to be carrying some 40 tonnes of concealed weaponry of Iranian origin among a cargo of lentils and cotton.

We continued to witness the devastating consequences of this smuggling activity when, last month, members of the Hamas terrorist organization used an anti-tank missile that they had smuggled into the Gaza Strip to strike and completely destroy a school bus travelling in southern Israel, injuring the bus driver and killing a 16-year-old child.

The Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee remains an important part of the efforts to isolate terrorists and their means to inflict harm. Israel welcomes the considerable progress made towards promoting clear and fair procedures concerning the inclusion of individuals and entities on the consolidated list. In this regard, the work of Judge Kimberly Prost as Ombudsperson represents an important step in addressing concerns over due process. Her informative reports provide a concise outline of her Office's activities.

We believe that it is critical to continue to develop international standards against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and dual-use items. The international community must continue to seek and implement measures that keep the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the world's most dangerous individuals, especially in our region. In this regard, I wish to reiterate Israel's full support for resolution 1540 (2004) and the renewal of its mandate in resolution 1977 (2011).

The struggle against global terrorism calls for our political resolve and tireless action. We must not forget the victims of terror, and we must not overlook the culpability of those who seek to incite, sponsor or justify terrorism or of those who provide sanctuary to terrorists. We appreciate this opportunity for dialogue and will continue to actively engage in and support the important work of the Council's counter-terrorism committees.

The President (spoke in French): I call on the Acting Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Serrano: I thank you, Sir, for inviting the European Union to intervene in this debate. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland and Montenegro; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia; as well as

Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this declaration.

I wish at the outset to thank the Chairs of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004) for their briefings. At the beginning of this month, the Security Council welcomed the news that Osama Bin Laden would never again be able to perpetrate acts of terrorism. It also reaffirmed that any measure taken to combat terrorism must comply with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. This development could be an opportunity to re-examine the relationship between Al-Qaida and the Taliban, taking into account the evolving nature of terrorist threats and the current political situation in Afghanistan.

Action by the United Nations against the scourge of terrorism must be firmly rooted in the rule of law. The European Union therefore welcomes the important improvements to the procedures of the 1267 Committee in the course of recent years. In particular, the establishment under resolution 1904 (2009) of the Office of the Ombudsperson was a significant enhancement of due process at the United Nations level, which from a legal perspective provides persons and entities seeking to be removed from the consolidated list with a remedy that should be utilized to its fullest extent.

We welcome the Security Council's encouragement of individuals seeking de-listing to pursue their case through the Ombudsperson. In addition, the Security Council should also encourage States and relevant international organizations to refer individuals and entities seeking de-listing to the Office of the Ombudsperson. This would be important in respect of proceedings before domestic and regional courts and international human rights bodies pertaining to the implementation of the 1267 sanctions regime, and in the light of legal concerns raised from within the United Nations system.

We note that the Security Council will respond to the observations contained in the first activity report of the Ombudsperson in the context of the renewal of her mandate in June. This could be an opportunity to further clarify elements of the implementation of the Ombudsperson process. The renewal, further clarification and enhanced transparency of the Ombudsperson process are also important in the

context of recurrent judicial challenges that have arisen worldwide. In this regard, access by the Ombudsperson to information — including, where relevant, to classified information — is necessary. This will require appropriate arrangements to be put in place. The Security Council should encourage all Member States to agree on such arrangements with the Ombudsperson. Furthermore, the Committee should consider publishing the observations contained in the case reports of the Ombudsperson in order to make the information available to the petitioner.

Regarding the consolidated list, the Security Council should seriously consider the options proposed by the Monitoring Team in its most recent report, including those pertaining to time limits for listings. This would be in line with the preventive nature of the measures decided by the Security Council. We also note that the Committee's guidelines already provide for the referral of decisions to the Security Council in case of a lack of consensus within the Committee.

As regards the 1373 Committee, the European Union welcomes the prolongation and refinement of the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate through resolution 1963 (2010), adopted in December last year. In particular, we appreciate the resolution's focus on countering incitement of terrorist acts motivated by extremism, as well as on ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. Both aspects are crucial to combating international terrorism in an effective and legitimate manner.

In this regard, the European Union is becoming a key supporter of capacity-building measures in third countries, inter alia in the areas of law enforcement, judicial cooperation and counter-radicalization measures. On this occasion, the European Union expresses its appreciation to the Committee for the constructive dialogue with international, regional and subregional organizations on the prevention of terrorism that took place at the special meeting in April in Strasbourg. We would also hope to continue and enhance the dialogue between the Committee and the European Union on all aspects of the global fight against international terrorism, in line with the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Regarding the 1540 Committee, the European Union welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 1777 (2011) on 20 April. It is our conviction that the

mandate extension for 10 years will contribute to persistently curbing the risk of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery to non-State actors — one of the most serious threats to international peace and security in our time. The mandate contained therein provides the Committee with an effective basis for its future work.

The European Union has been active in ensuring the full implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), both internally and externally. I can inform the Council in this context that the European Union is currently finalizing, in consultation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, a new European Union Council decision in support of the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004).

Last but not least, I wish to reiterate the importance the European Union attaches to close cooperation between the three Committees and between their groups of experts, including joint outreach activities, exchange of information and joint meetings, their co-location as requested by resolution 1904 (2009), and their collaboration within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The President (spoke in French): I give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We appreciate the reports of the Chairmen of the Committees established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1267 (1999), which are useful for Member States.

The fateful events of 11 September 2001 shocked the world. All States Members of the United Nations firmly condemned the scourge of terrorism. The Security Council adopted resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), in which it urged States not to give refuge to terrorists and not to resort to political motivations for refusing requests for extradition. The United Nations thus assumed the commitment to fighting terrorism within the framework of multilateralism and international cooperation based on respect for the self-determination and sovereignty of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. It was a fight against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The events of 11 September 2001 also served as a pretext for unilateralist, imperialist and aggressive

actions against sovereign countries. The rubric "war against terrorism" was used to justify a preventive war, regime change and State terrorism and to set aside or undermine the fragile international legal architecture. In the name of the fight against terrorism Afghanistan and Iraq were invaded, thousands of innocent people have been murdered and State terrorism has been promoted. Ten years after the terrible events of 11 September, the world is not a safer place.

That same State, claiming to wage a global war against terrorism throughout the world, refuses to condemn the vicious terrorist Luis Posada Carriles or to extradite him to Venezuela, where he was serving a prison sentence for the bombing of a Cubana de Aviación airliner in which 73 Cuban athletes were killed. This notorious international terrorist today walks free through the streets of Miami, Florida, after having been acquitted in a court in El Paso, Texas, not on charges of terrorism but of having lied about his immigration status.

A few days ago, Mr. Posada Carriles admitted in an interview on CNN in Spanish to being a CIA agent and boasted of having carried out numerous political assassinations in several Latin American countries. Like him, other terrorists live freely in that country, including Raúl Díaz Peña, José Antonio Colina and Germán Rodolfo Varela, who were sentenced to prison in Venezuela for the 2003 bombing of the Spanish and Colombian consulates in Caracas. While self-confessed, convicted terrorists are protected, five innocent Cubans, who themselves worked in the fight against terrorism, remain detained in United States prisons.

As long as the practice of classifying some terrorists as good and others as bad persists; as long as State terrorism is promoted; and as long as innocent people are being killed under the pretext of a supposed fight against terrorism and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law are violated, the world will not be a safer place.

The deplorable living conditions in various parts of the world; injustice and inequity; ethnic, religious and other kinds of discrimination; and foreign occupation of and interference in sovereign countries all fuel terrorism. Those terrible scourges, which undermine the dignity of millions of human beings throughout the world, must be eradicated.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reaffirms its commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and reiterates its commitment to the fight against this scourge, in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its origin or motivation, including State terrorism, which today constitutes an instrument for subjecting countries and peoples to foreign occupation and neo-colonial domination.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Morocco.

Mr. Loulichki (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): My delegation is pleased to participate in this debate on counter-terrorism, an issue that lies at the very heart of the mandates of the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

I should like to take this opportunity to express to the Council and to the Secretary-General Morocco's gratitude for the statement of support and solidarity following the terrorist attack that struck my country on 28 April.

That cowardly attack, far from weakening the resolve of the Kingdom of Morocco, strengthened the country's commitment to continue its efforts to consolidate the rule of law and reform. The spontaneous, energetic and unanimous response of the Moroccan people in the face of that criminal act remains the main bulwark with respect to this challenge and made clear the absolute rejection by the entire Kingdom of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its perpetrators or aims.

The three Committees set up by the Security Council resolutions, which I mentioned earlier, represent important elements of the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. My country is pleased to be able to engage in exemplary cooperation with the three Committees and their Groups of Experts.

My delegation supports the overall approach of the 1373 Committee, which is aimed on the one hand at continuing to deploy strategic and transparent efforts and, on the other, at strengthening its role in facilitating the provision of technical assistance for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), so as to build up the capacities of Member States in the fight against terrorism, in close cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism

Implementation Task Force and bilateral and multilateral donors.

Turning to the 1267 Committee, my country has followed with interest the efforts undertaken to implement the provisions of resolutions 1822 (2008) and 1904 (2009), aimed at improving the quality of the consolidated list and the effectiveness of the sanctions system. My delegation continues to advocate greater cooperation with Member States in the listing and delisting procedures so as to ensure that they are considered partners in the decision-making process. The Committee would benefit from taking into account the lessons learned from the first review of the consolidated list, carried out under paragraph 25 of resolution 1822 (2008), with a view to beginning, under the best possible conditions, the reviews to be conducted under paragraphs 23 and 42 of resolution 1904 (2009).

In that respect, we have taken note with interest of the proposals contained in paragraphs 44 to 46 of the eleventh report (S/2011/245) of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team. My delegation also shares the concerns set out in paragraph 56 of the report on the lack of clarity regarding certain entries on the consolidated list that yield false positive matches during screenings by private financial institutions. These lead to practical difficulties and complications that can have a very real impact on the social status and state of mind of the law-abiding individuals and members of their families who are the victims in this respect. We would like special attention to be devoted to this issue.

My delegation would like to reiterate its support for the programme of work for 2011 of the 1540 Committee and welcomes the activities that have been planned with a view to strengthening cooperation with Member States and to assisting them in their efforts to implement their commitments under resolution 1540 (2004).

We also support the overall approach of the Committee, which is aimed at facilitating the provision of technical assistance so as to overcome the difficulties experienced by countries in the full implementation of the resolution.

At the national level, the Kingdom of Morocco has continued its efforts aimed at bringing its legislation in line with its commitments, pursuant to the international conventions and agreements it has

ratified as well as resolution 1540 (2004). Morocco, which has an export-control system for dual-use materials, is on the verge of adopting new legislation in the area of external trade that will incorporate recent developments in this field, including dual-use materials.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now call on the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Al Habib (Islamic Republic of Iran): The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to thank the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the Security Council for presenting their reports to the Council.

Terrorism is one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Addressing this problem requires an integrated and comprehensive approach. Clearly, the United Nations has made considerable progress in the areas of both standard-setting and the implementation of counter-terrorism measures. However, despite all those efforts and activities, we have, unfortunately, witnessed an escalation in terrorist attacks in various parts of the world.

Genuinely combating terrorism very much depends upon how we identify its root causes. Foreign intervention, aggression and occupation, exclusion, selectivity and expansionist economic and political policies are among the root causes that create conditions conducive to the spread of violent acts and terrorism. Furthermore, the double standard exercised by certain States in dealing with terrorism has aggravated the situation. On the one hand, they appear to confront some terrorist groups while, on the other, they overlook others. Perhaps one reason for the rise in terrorist activities in recent years, in terms of frequency and the advanced tactics used by terrorists, is the wrong and selective approach by certain States in dealing with terrorism.

Distancing the international order and today's dialogues from justice is perhaps among the most fundamental damage inflicted upon the structure of fighting for peace. Just peace is a discourse to answer the challenges of today and the tomorrow's world peace, including preventing and fighting terrorism. Based on that discourse, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a two-day conference in Tehran on counter-terrorism from 15 to 16 May. Peace activists and representatives of non-governmental organizations

from more than 60 countries took part in the conference entitled "Global alliance against terrorism for a just peace". The Conference was an occasion to work on identifying the concepts and the theoretical foundations of modern terrorism, its root causes, actors, tools and consequences for world peace and security, as well as feasible strategies to counter terrorism. We are of the belief that establishing a just peace not only prevents terrorism; it also certainly strengthens the pillars supporting the world's efforts to confront terrorism by respecting human dignity. The conference was a prelude to an international meeting on countering terrorism to be held late June in Tehran with the participation of high Government officials and relevant international organizations.

On the work of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), we believe that it should not have operative impact on the rights enshrined in internationally negotiated instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as well as the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Islamic Republic of Iran also believes that any emphasis on the concept of prohibiting access by non-State actors to weapons of mass destruction and nuclear materials should not divert the attention of Member States from nuclear disarmament as the highest priority of the international community.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has taken serious steps in implementing the Security Council's resolutions on terrorism, including resolution 1373 (2001). We have submitted six national reports on our implementation of that resolution, in which we have set out the concrete steps that our country has taken to implement the provisions of that and other relevant resolutions. Those steps include stepping up border control security and surveillance measures at border entry and exit checkpoints. Moreover, we have intensified our fight against drug trafficking mafias. Given the fact that this menace constitutes a breeding ground for terrorism, Iran's efforts in that regard have undoubtedly made a fundamental contribution to the global fight against terrorism.

As one of the first victims of terrorism in the region, Iran has made unwavering efforts to fight it. We have always strongly condemned this vicious menace in all its forms and manifestations. As I said earlier, the application of double standards in dealing with

terrorism and terrorist groups is a matter of grave concern that seriously undermines the international community's collective fight against terrorism. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been subject to various acts of terrorism by certain terrorist groups over the past three decades.

In that regard, particular reference should be made to the Mujahidin-e Khalq Organization terrorist group, which has thus far perpetrated numerous terrorist operations in Iran, resulting in the killing and wounding of tens of thousands of civilians and officials and damage to private and Government property. That terrorist group has also devised many atrocious ploys to incite acts of terrorism inside and outside the country. This terrorist group was long supported and sheltered by the former regime in Iraq. It was also engaged in Saddam's bloody campaigns against the Iraqi people. Despite its heinous and appalling record of terrorist acts and incitement to terrorism, some attempts are being made to delist the group from the terrorist lists of some States. Any decision in that regard would be another indication of the selective approach and double standard with which some States deal with terrorism. It is obvious that this kind of attitude towards terrorist groups weakens the international consensus against terrorism and encourages terrorists to continue their inhuman activities. Such support is indeed in clear violation of the provisions of Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005).

In the past several years, the Jundullah terrorist group has attacked and killed dozens of people in the eastern and south-eastern parts of our country, in an attempt to create an environment of intimidation and insecurity. At the same time, the group Party for a Free Life in Kurdistan is active at our western borders, and recently carried out a number of terrorist attacks.

Those groups also enjoy the support of some foreign countries. We expect all countries to uphold their international obligations in this regard.

I would like to reiterate that we should all strengthen our cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Only through a coordinated and comprehensive approach will the international community's fight against terrorism yield lasting results.

Before I conclude, I would like to respond to the reference made to my country by the representative of

the Israeli regime. I should like to place on record that my delegation rejects the baseless allegations and distortions made in the Chamber that were intended to distract the international community's attention from the facts concerning the State terrorism, criminal policies and abhorrent atrocities in the region by the Israeli regime, in particular the heinous crimes committed against the people of Palestine, Lebanon and Syria, to say the least. Just in the past few days, at least 20 people lost their lives at the hands of this regime's brutal forces in the Golan Heights, Ramallah and Lebanon.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr. Ja'afari (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): As the Security Council is aware, Syria has on many occasions said in the Council that we fully cooperate, on an ongoing basis, with the Committees established by the Council pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004). My country resolutely condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in particular State terrorism. Terrorism is indeed a crime that affects all peoples. We firmly believe that the United Nations plays an essential role in combating terrorism. There is no denying that terrorism should not be linked to any religion, nationality, culture or civilization. Under no circumstances is it appropriate to fail to distinguish terrorism from the right of peoples to self-determination and independence.

The famous resolution adopted by the General Assembly in 1974, resolution 3314 (XXIX), defines occupation as constituting the worst possible form of aggression. The representatives of Israel may say what they wish when it comes to lies and untruths beyond the realm of international legality. Within that realm, however, there are many resolutions condemning and denouncing Israel's acts and its violations of the rights of the Palestinian, Lebanese and Syrian peoples living under its occupation for decades.

The representative of Israel has once again taken advantage of the forum of the Security Council for propaganda, which cannot stand against truth. He obviously thought that, in inappropriately mentioning my country's name in his statement, it would be possible to deflect attention from the root causes of problems in the Middle East, namely, the continuing occupation by Israel of Palestinian territories, and

ensure that people's gazes were averted from the crimes perpetrated by Israel against the unarmed Palestinian people.

The whole world knows that Israel, as an occupying Power, is implementing a sadistic holocaust against the Palestinians, a holocaust based on settlements and the displacement of people and the annexation of Arab territories. State terrorism is the worst form of terrorism in the world. There is a special archive, an encyclopedia and a museum testifying to the crimes of genocide and war crimes perpetrated by Israel since it began its occupation of the territories.

State terrorism perpetrated by Israel has affected the United Arab Emirates, as the Council is aware, and the Sudan. Other areas have been affected as well, including European and non-European capitals alike, which have seen assassinations of Palestinians and other Arabs. Israel is the State that has introduced official terrorism to the region. All of that in the knowledge that Zionist terrorist groups such as the Stern Gang, the Irgun, the Haganah and the Balmakh have massacred thousands of Palestinians and caused their exodus, as well as killing Count Folke Bernadotte, a United Nations representative, in 1948. The first terrorist act in the region was committed by Israel, in 1954 — I repeat, in 1954 — with the hijacking of a Syrian civilian aircraft. In those days, nobody spoke of Hamas or Hizbullah.

I shall conclude by quoting what I read in an Israeli newspaper. In 2009, Or Ben-David Katz, a 19-year-old Israeli girl, stated that she fully intended to flout Israeli law by refusing to perform military service. In an open letter to the Israeli Government, that young woman declared:

"To refuse means to say no. No to the military rule in the West Bank, no to the use of violence as a means of defence ... no to war and no to a society that claims to be democratic, but forces youths to carry weapons, kill and be killed".

That young woman has been imprisoned three times for her views.

The President (*spoke in French*): The representative of Israel has asked to make a further statement. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Reuben (Israel): I would like to respond. It is somewhat surreal to hear a representative of a regime that brutally killed hundreds of its own civilians

and citizens over the past few weeks, and which continues to do so as we speak, talk about terrorism.

As a country that actively supports, harbours and finances terrorist organizations, and that hosts the headquarters of internationally recognized terrorist organizations, Syria's practices indeed reflect its long-standing perspective on sponsoring terrorism.

It is a shame and a disgrace for Syria to exploit the memory of the victims of the Holocaust.

The President (spoke in French): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.